



ENVISION WOODLAND PARK 2030

City of Woodland Park
Comprehensive Plan
October 2021
Prepared by
Logan Simpson

JOINT RESOLUTION

CITY OF WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 882, SERIES 2021

A JOINT RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF WOODLAND PARK PLANNING COMMISSION TO ADOPT THE ENVISION WOODLAND PARK 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND BY THE WOODLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL TO ENDORSE THE ENVISION WOODLAND PARK 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Envision Woodland Park 2030 Comprehensive Plan is an aspirational document that is not regulatory but provides guidance toward the future development and growth of the community; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Planning Commission to make and adopt a Master Plan for the physical development of the municipality, as affirmed by the enabling State legislation (C.R.S. 31-23-206) and the City Charter (Article V, Section 5.4(d)); and

WHEREAS, the City's 2010 Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan has served the community well through the past decade; however, it is time to update the City's Plan since much has changed in the community during the past decade; and

WHEREAS, the process began with a public outreach program with five online surveys that garnered over 350 participants completing over 1,000 responses to the questionnaires with a summary of the survey results provided in Appendix A, and

WHEREAS, in March 2021, eight subcommittees were formed to focus on the core topics listed below and to update each chapters' goals, objectives, and actions regarding;

1. Land Use and Growth, Housing, and Community Character and Design;
2. Transportation and Drainage;
3. Public Safety, Emergency Services, and Resiliency;
4. City Finances, Economic Development, and Tourism
5. Utilities: Water and Wastewater;
6. Sustainability, Parks, Trails, and Open Space;
7. Community Wellbeing: Education, Health, Recreation, and Senior Services; and
8. Arts, Culture, and Community Heritage.

Approximately 70 volunteers participated in the subcommittee process through June 2021. The subcommittees included community stakeholders, City Council, Planning Commission and Staff; and

WHEREAS, during the months of February through June, 27 one-on-one interviews were held by consultant Logan Simpson with community groups, business owners, elected officials, regional program coordinators, and residents with a summary of the interviews provided in Appendix D;

WHEREAS, High School Civics students participated in a Zoom meeting to get feedback from the younger generation to learn about what they love about Woodland Park and what they would like to see improved; and

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2021, a hybrid in-person and virtual Town Hall was conducted with approximately 80 community members, and discussed what people love about Woodland Park and where opportunities for improvement lie; and

WHEREAS, all outreach activities were advertised on WhatsUpWoodlandPark.com, as well as Pikes Peak Courier and the Chamber of Commerce Grapevine and to help keep all community members informed of the process and content of the draft documents; and

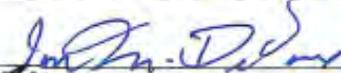
WHEREAS, the Woodland Park Planning Commission reviewed the draft Comprehensive Plan during six work sessions beginning on July 22, 2021 through October 14, 2021 for the purpose of proposing format and content edits; and

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2021, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to consider the adoption of the Envision 2030 Comprehensive Plan and voted unanimously to approve Resolution No. 882 and recommended that the Woodland Park City Council endorse the 2030 Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2021 the City Council voted to endorse the Envision 2030 Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WOODLAND PARK THAT:

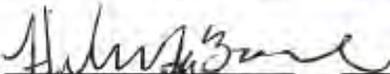
The foregoing Joint Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Woodland Park held in Woodland Park on the 28 day of October, 2021.


Jon DeVaux
Planning Commission Chairman

ATTEST:


Planning Director, Sally Riley

Furthermore, the foregoing Joint Resolution was approved at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Woodland Park held in Woodland Park on the 18th day of November, 2021.


Hilary LaBarre, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:


City Clerk, Suzanne Leclercq

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SUBCOMMITTEES

Land Use, Housing, and Community Character

Christina Chapman, Chair

Lor Pellegrino, Scribe (CS)

Ken Hartsfield (PC)

Hilary LaBarre (CC Mayor Pro tem)

Jennifer Eardley

Carl Andersen

Valerie Lundy

Kathryn Perry

City Finances, Economic Development, and Tourism

Al Bunge, Chair (PC)

Drew Stoll, Scribe

Michael Lawson (CS)

Kellie Case (CC)

Sam Gould

Shannon Andersen

Deb Miller

Gail Wingerd

Cory Steinke

Nick Abercrombie

City Utilities: Water and Wastewater

Skip Howes, Chair, Scribe

Dean Waters

Kip Wiley (CS)

Kelly Simpkins (CS)

Larry Larsen (PC)

Stephanie Alfieri (CC)

Ken Matthews

Mark Weaver

Transportation and Drainage

Catherine Nakai, Chair

Jim Rumsey, Scribe

Robyn Brown (CS)

Jon DeVaux (PC)

Bob Carlsen

Jerry Penland

John Davis

City Council Members
Denoted with (CC)

Planning Commission
Members Denoted with (PC)

City Staff Members
Denoted with (CS)

SUBCOMMITTEES

Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Resiliency

Mike Nakai, Chair

Lee Brown, Scribe (PC)

Chief Miles De Young (CS)

Rusty Neal (CC)

Tyler Lambert

Don Angell

Tony Perry

Robin Lindberg

Community Sustainability, Parks Trails and Open Space

Don Dezelle, Chair

Jeff Webb, Scribe

Cindy Keating (CS)

Robert Zuluaga (CC)

Lou Ramon

Tom Urban

Jamie Dion

Danuta Brown

Jerry Smith

Community Well-being: Education, Health, Recreation and Aging in Place

Mary Barrowman, Chair

Kimberlee Aiello, Scribe

Sally Riley (CS)

Charles Schroeder

Brian Gustafson

Amy Wolin

Kathy Lowry

Eileen Quinn

Andrew Graber

Arts Culture and Historic Preservation

Laurie Glauth, Chair

Ellen Carrick, Scribe (PC)

Suzanne Leclercq (CS)

Larry Black

David Langley

Ralph Holloway

Karolyn Smith

Michelle Harris

Gayle Gross

City Council Members
Denoted with (CC)

Planning Commission
Members Denoted with (PC)

City Staff Members
Denoted with (CS)



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LO₂ wildwood CASINO



Introduction

Vision: *Woodland Park is a safe, welcoming mountain community where the majestic surroundings inspire our high standards. We are a multi-generational, family friendly community with a healthy and prosperous economy, offering world-class services and sustainable infrastructure.*

Mission: *To protect, promote, and enhance the general well-being of our mountain community through an unwavering commitment to excellence that strengthens public trust.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WHAT'S NEW?

This document is an update to the City's 2010 Comprehensive Plan. As part of this process, subcommittees were comprised of local residents, stakeholders, and program directors who evaluated the relevancy of the goals, objectives, and actions in light of the current conditions, changes in community values, and implementation status of the previous actions.

This plan covers the same 12 themes and chapters as the 2010 plan and contains some of the same goals, policies and actions. The background information on these elements has been updated to reflect current city conditions, resulting in new priorities for each theme.



WHAT'S INSIDE?

Each chapter in this plan covers a different element that is a key part of life in Woodland Park: Land Use and Growth; Housing; Community Character and Design; City Finances; Economic Development and Tourism; Sustainability; Parks, Trails, and Open Space; Water and Wastewater; Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Resiliency; Transportation and Drainage; Community Wellbeing; and Arts, Culture, and Community Heritage. Each chapter falls into a socio-economic, natural, or built environment category to fully capture the community of Woodland Park.

KEY TOPICS FOR EACH THEME

Each chapter in this document has important issues and actions identified by the subcommittees and the general public. Below are the important topics, by theme.

Socio-Economic Environment



Community Wellbeing:

- Identify partnerships to expand educational resources.
- Ensure that seniors are able to thrive.
- Provide a range of recreation opportunities for all ages.



Economic Development and Tourism:

- Identify tourism opportunities.
- Remove obstacles to local business success.



City Finances:

- Maintain short- and long-term financial plans.
- Reduce City debt.



Arts, Culture, and Community Heritage:

- Collaborate and utilize shared resources.
- Promote existing events.
- Educate the community about local history.

Natural Environment



Parks, Trails, and Open Space:

- Continue to develop and maintain trails and open space to meet the needs of the citizens.
- Identify partnerships or methods to help with maintenance.
- Continue to prioritize connectivity in trail development.



Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Resiliency:

- Implement resiliency pre-planning actions to recover more quickly after a natural hazard event.
- Continue to foster partnerships.
- Expand community education and outreach opportunities.



Sustainability:

- Encourage civic participation in government.
- Educate the community about water conservation and other environmentally friendly mountain practices.



Water and Wastewater:

- Protect and plan for a limited water supply.
- Maintain infrastructure.
- Identify wastewater re-use opportunities.



Built Environment



Transportation and Drainage:

- Plan for a Highway 24 reliever route.
- Develop complete streets.
- Continue to develop stormwater infrastructure.



Housing:

- Encourage Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), where appropriate.
- Encourage a mix of housing options that maintain the character of the community.



Land Use and Growth:

- Plan for controlled growth and a limited water supply.
- Ensure that property rights are respected.



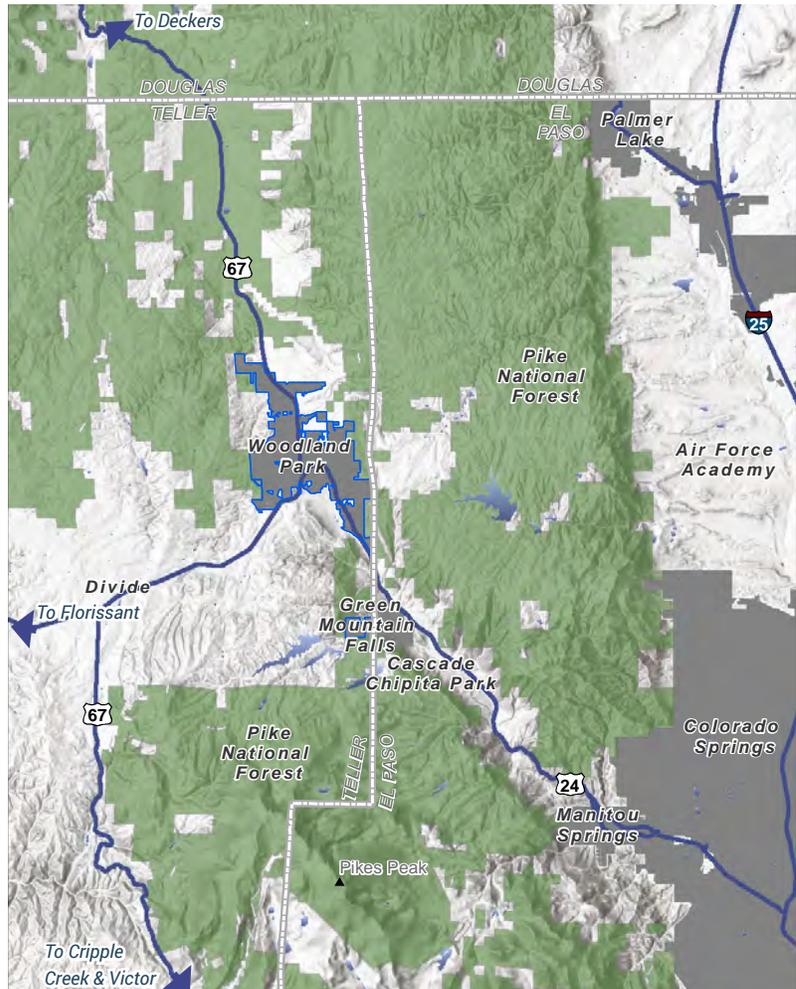
Community Character and Design:

- Improve downtown with elements that enhance the character of Woodland Park once Highway 24 is relocated from Midland Avenue.
- Maintain the mountain west character.

INTRODUCTION

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Woodland Park is situated on the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, approximately eighteen miles west of Colorado Springs, in the shadow of the majestic Pikes Peak. As the largest city in Teller County, Woodland Park is home to 8,151 residents with a passion for their western mountain city and the surrounding natural lands. Tourism is an economic mainstay of the community yet does not detract from the small town charm. As a retail and service center to a geographically large area, Woodland Park offers quality services including retail goods, banking, health care, education, recreation, and entertainment.



WHAT IS THE ENVISION WOODLAND PARK 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The Envision Woodland Park 2030 Comprehensive Plan (the Plan) is Woodland Park's aspirational, community guided vision for the future. The Plan helps with prioritizing City actions, allocation of resources, and encourages partnerships to address community challenges. It focuses on physical, social, and economic development, and to aid in developing policies regarding the City budget and capital improvement projects.

The Plan presents goals, objectives, and actions that contribute to the long-term vision and implementation that will take many years to achieve. The intent of the Plan is to encourage the community to continue to work together to address the actions and to ensure that Woodland Park can continue to grow responsibly. Residents and businesses strive to make Woodland Park an exceptional place to work, shop, learn, recreate, and call home.

WHO WILL USE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The Plan is designed for City leaders and community members to use as a guide to understand future development and redevelopment considerations for Woodland Park from now through the next 20 years. While the Plan looks forward 20 years, an update is completed every 10 years to allow residents, leaders, and business owners to re-calibrate and make adjustments based on current conditions. The Plan is an aspirational aid to assist City staff, the Planning Commission, and the City Council, regarding:

- Development applications;
- Provision and extension of community services and infrastructure; and
- Regional coordination efforts with other jurisdictions and agencies.

Additionally, the Plan is designed for:

- Residents or potential buyers interested in the location of new streets, parks, trails, or community facilities and services; or how neighboring lands might be developed;
- Business owners, property owners, or prospective developers interested in land use recommendations or development policies for their properties; and
- Adjacent jurisdictions interested in collaborating with the City and managing their own growth and land uses. (See map on page 25.)

The Plan can be used to inform residents and leaders of updates and decisions based on City plans for location and size of new streets, parks, trails and trailheads; improve economic and activity centers; improve hazard mitigation and preparedness; and guide water, sewer, and other necessary infrastructure investments and improvements.

WHY UPDATE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

Much has changed in Woodland Park since the 2010 Comprehensive Plan update. The population has grown by approximately 15 percent, with a noted increase in both young adult and retired populations. While the population and growth patterns have changed, some elements such as the small town atmosphere and mountain living have not. In the last ten years, 184 of the actions proposed in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan have been either partially or completely accomplished. Given these great accomplishments, the City is in a position to update the overall vision and establish new goals, objectives, and actions to address current and long-standing issues and opportunities throughout the community.

The development and adoption of a Master Plan is mandated through Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S. 31-23-206) to provide the policy framework for implementing regulatory tools such as zoning, subdivision, and annexation regulations and procedures. This Plan update satisfies the State statutory mandate. The Colorado State Statute also stipulates that Plans must remain relevant. For this reason, the Plan is intended to be flexible, adapting to changing conditions and unanticipated events. Annual audits of the plan are recommended to determine progress towards goals. It should be reviewed and updated every 10 years. Minor modifications may occur in interim years whenever major demographic shifts or policy changes occur that would impact the accuracy and direction of the elements in this Plan.

OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

Envision Woodland Park 2030 is a truly community driven plan that was primarily developed by eight subcommittees with input from residents and business owners. The project began with a public outreach series that included a landing page on the WhatsUpWoodlandPark.com website, five questionnaires, an in-person Town Hall meeting, and stakeholder interviews to gather feedback on issues and opportunities for Woodland Park. This information was distilled for the subcommittees who helped shape a second series of topic-specific questionnaires that further helped form the development of the goals, objectives, and actions.

The subcommittees contributed over eight hundred volunteer hours during a period of four months, from late March through July 2021, in which they audited the existing Plan, discussed which goals, objectives, and actions should be carried forward to the new Plan, and developed new goals, objectives, and actions. Vision statements for 12 different topics were created. In addition, the updated plan was reviewed at five separate Planning Commission work sessions from August through September. The draft document was also available on the “What’s Up Woodland Park” website for public review. Final edits were completed in September 2021; the Plan was adopted by the Planning Commission on October 28, 2021 and endorsed by City Council on November 18, 2021.

ADDENDUM

The 2021 Comprehensive Plan Update is intended to be a living document that will serve the City of Woodland Park for the next decade. Suggested modifications to the Comprehensive Plan will be brought to the attention of City Staff and added to an official Planning Commission meeting agenda. The modifications will be reviewed at the official Planning Commission meeting and voted on by the commission for incorporation. All modifications and additions to the Comprehensive Plan since its approval on October 28, 2021, will be logged and tracked below.

HOW IS THE PLAN ORGANIZED?

This introduction lays the foundation for the Plan, addressing the regional context, the purpose and importance of the Plan, and the process by which the public was engaged. The following chapters lay out relevant background information along with the vision, goals, objectives, and actions for each of the following topics:

- Land Use and Growth
- Housing
- Community Character and Design
- City Finances
- Economic Development and Tourism
- Sustainability
- Parks, Trails, and Open Space
- Water and Wastewater
- Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Resiliency
- Transportation and Drainage
- Community Well-Being
- Arts, Culture, and Community Heritage

The vision for each chapter establishes the overall ideal for each topic area. There are minimal goals per chapter, which represent high-level statements of what the community would like to achieve in the future. Each objective provides more detailed, and somewhat actionable ways to achieve the goal with underlying actions representing a strategic work plan to achieve the stated objectives. Each action indicates an estimated time frame such as short-term (1-2 years), mid-term (2-5 years), long-term (greater than 5 years) or ongoing.

The City has established a vision and mission per the 2019-21 Strategic Plan as detailed below:

City Vision

Woodland Park is a safe, welcoming mountain community where the majestic surroundings inspire our high standards. We are a multi-generational, family friendly community with a healthy and prosperous economy, offering world-class services and sustainable infrastructure.

City Mission

To protect, promote, and enhance the general well-being of our mountain community through an unwavering commitment to excellence that strengthens public trust.

THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Given that the Plan update project was launched during a global pandemic, much of the initial public outreach was conducted digitally to respect safety protocols. Therefore, a series of five online questionnaires was delivered throughout the first six months of the process, resulting in over 350 participants completing a total of over 1,000 questionnaires. The first questionnaire, titled “Greatest Needs”, restated many of the same questions that were asked during the 2010 Plan update. The subsequent four questionnaires sought additional feedback on the twelve topic areas featured in the Plan.

During the months of February through June 2021, 27 one-on-one interviews were held with City staff, community groups, business owners, elected officials, regional program coordinators, and residents. A detailed summary of these interviews is provided in Appendix D. These conversations focused on Woodland Park’s greatest challenges and opportunities, the vision for the future, code updates, and other considerations. Stakeholders shared their open and honest opinions about the issues and choices that Woodland Park faces as it plans for the future.

A hybrid in-person and virtual Town Hall was conducted in April 2021, in which approximately 80 community members discussed what people love about Woodland Park and where opportunities for improvement lie. The event was broadcast over Zoom and included text polling with live results that both the in-person and virtual attendees could see simultaneously and discuss as a group.

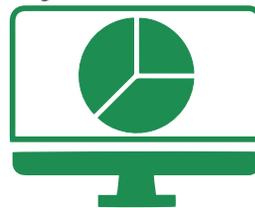
The high school civics class was engaged early in the process by way of Zoom to get feedback from the younger generation to learn what they love about Woodland Park and would like to see improved. A digital charrette program called Mural was utilized to allow the students the opportunity to move ideas around on a digital whiteboard and categorize their importance. The result was a list of places and activities that they would love to see incorporated into

the overall city programs to give them places to gather and be a teen community.

A booth at the local Old-Fashioned 4th of July Celebration was available to further solicit community input into the draft Plan.

All outreach activities were advertised on WhatsUpWoodlandPark.com, as well as through the Pikes Peak Courier and the Chamber of Commerce Grapevine. Customized napkins were created prior to the Town Hall with information about the event and a QR code to direct community members to the website. The napkins were distributed to several local eating establishments to publicize events. A more detailed account of the public outreach process and common themes that arose from the meetings is presented in Appendix B.

1,000+



ONLINE
QUESTIONNAIRE
RESPONSES

**Details in Appendix A*

27



STAKEHOLDER
INTERVIEWS

**Details in Appendix D*

80



HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS
CLASS



TOWN HALL
ATTENDEES

SUBCOMMITTEES

Eight subcommittees were appointed and/or volunteered to review each chapter of the 2010 Plan and make updates. They developed a vision and revised goals, objectives, and actions to make this a truly community-informed plan. The subcommittees met three times over Zoom and once in person in organized work sessions. Several groups met multiple times outside of the full group sessions for a total of over 800 volunteer subcommittee hours. To the extent possible, each subcommittee had representatives from the Planning Commission, City Council, and/or City staff. Subcommittees also had local and regional representation. Representative groups are listed below.



Regional Representation:

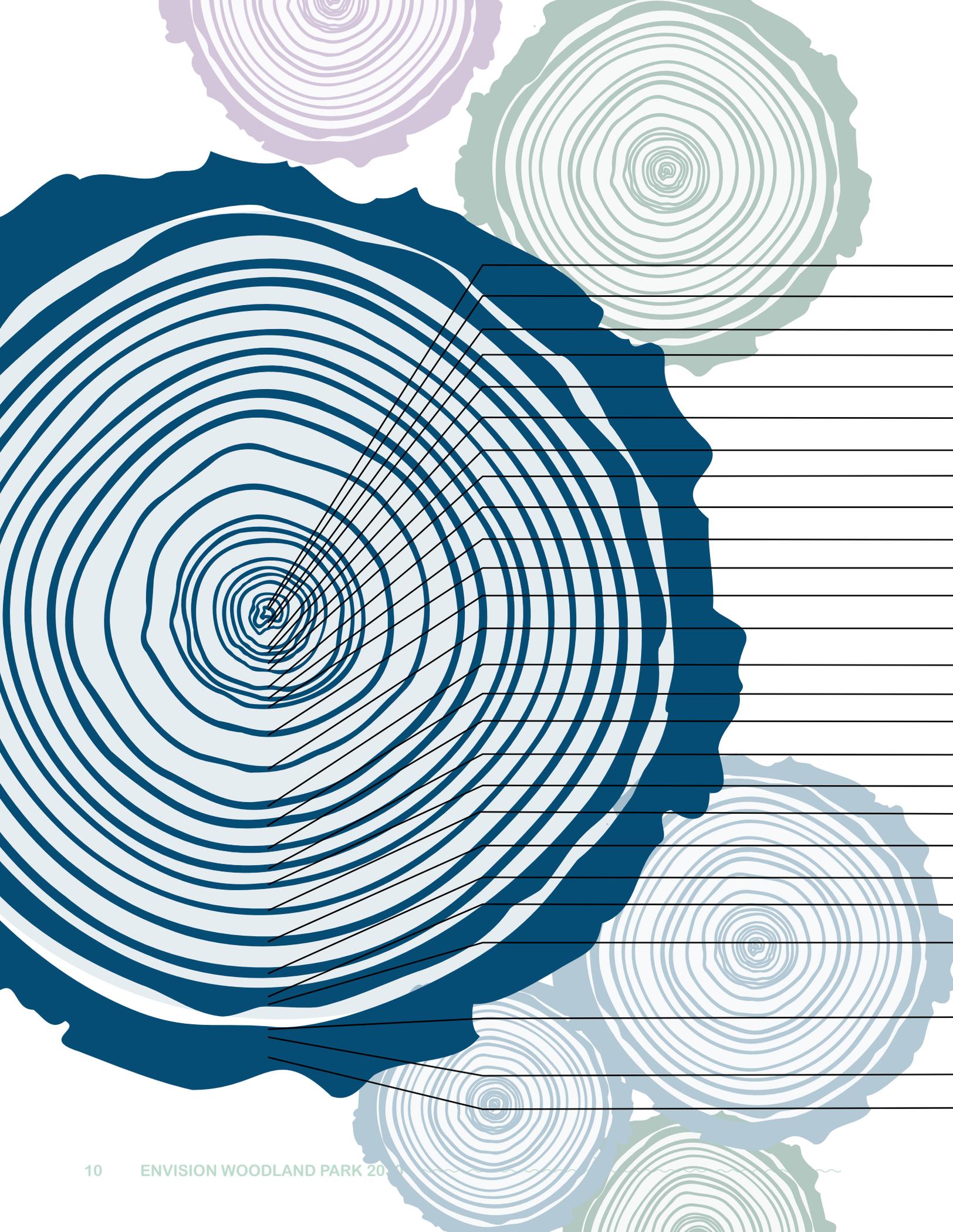
- Rampart Range Library District
- Teller County Senior Coalition
- Northeast Teller County Fire District
- Pikes Peak Regional Hospital
- Ute Pass Historical Society
- Woodland Park School District
- Teller and El Paso County Residents

800+ 
SUBCOMMITTEE HOURS

City Representation:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Realtors | • Teachers |
| • City Residents | • Parks Advisory Board |
| • Developers | • Bankers |
| • Chamber of Commerce | • Transportation Engineers |
| • Woodland Park Preservation Committee | • Entrepreneurs |
| • Mainstreet Board | • City Finance |
| • Ranchers | • Tourism |
| • Public Works Department | • Retired Military Residents |
| • Students | • Land Use Planning Department |
| • Business Owners | |





WOODLAND PARK HISTORY

BEGINNINGS

Nestled in a valley along Ute Pass in Teller County, Woodland Park serves as a gateway to the Pikes Peak country and the Rocky Mountains. Early Woodland Park residents made a living primarily in lumber, tourism, and ranching. Currently, Woodland Park offers residents and visitors alike access to recreation, natural landscapes, and rich cultural history.

- 1883** The Colorado Midland Railroad opens.
- 1887** Woodland Park is founded as Manitou Park.
- 1889** The Crest Hotel opens - Woodland Park's first hotel.
- 1891** Woodland Park is officially incorporated as Woodland Park.
- 1892** The Woodland Hotel opens, later serving as a tuberculosis sanitarium.
- 1920** The Woodland Park Rodeo Association is founded.
- 1940** The three-day annual Ute Trail Stampede began.
- 1949** The rodeo was moved to Bergstrom Arena in the middle of town.
- 1969** The first Woodland Park Subdivision Regulations and Zoning Code were adopted.
- 1975** Woodland Park becomes a home rule city.
- 1979** The first stoplight in Woodland Park began operating.
- 1983** The first Growth Management Plan was published.
- 1990** The Teller County Growth Management Plan (Including Woodland Park) was adopted.
- 1991** The Woodland Park Downtown Redevelopment Plan was adopted.
- 1993** The U.S. Highway 24 Corridor Bypass Study occurred.
- 1995** The U.S. Highway 24 Corridor Improvement Plan was adopted.
- 1996** The U.S. Highway 24 Access Control Plan was approved.
- 1997** The Zoning Code was overhauled and codified.
- 2006** The Teller County Strategic Housing Plan was adopted.
- 2008** The Bergstrom Arena and Woodland Park Saddle Club were torn down.
- 2010** The City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan was adopted.
- 2015** The Woodland Park Stormwater Management Plan was completed.
- 2016** The Teller County Housing Needs Assessment was conducted.
- 2018** The Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District Master Plan Report was published.
- 2018** The Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan was updated.
- 2019** The Woodland Park Strategic Plan was adopted.
- 2019** The Woodland Park Community Placemaking Plan was created.
- 2020** The Teller County Growth Management Plan Update was adopted.
- 2021** The 2030 Envision Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan Update was adopted.



WOODLAND PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Built Environment Chapters contain the components of the Plan that support the community vision for the way Woodland Park looks, feels, and moves. The built environment includes community character and design; land use; housing; and transportation and drainage. These chapters of the plan contain background, goals, objectives, and actions concerning how people live, work, and move, as well as the identity and future form of the City.



PLAN COMPONENTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The Socio-economic Environment Chapters encompass the components of the Plan that relate to society and the economy. The socio-economic environment includes tourism; community well-being; economic development; city finance; and arts, culture, and community heritage. These chapters of the Plan contain background, goals, objectives, and actions concerning how people interact with the built environment and each other.

CITY FINANCE



ARTS, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE



PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE



THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Natural Environment Chapters contain components of the Plan that relate to natural resources and the way people interact with the natural environment. The natural environment includes parks, trails, and open space; public safety, emergency management, and resiliency; sustainability; and water & wastewater. These chapters of the Plan contain background, goals, objectives, and actions regarding how people use resources, enjoy natural features, protect the environment, and prepare for natural disasters.

PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, AND RESILIENCY



SUSTAINABILITY





Dana's
Dance

719-210-6729
www.DanasDance.net

SHOP
WOODLAND
PARK

OPEN



Land Use and Growth

Vision: *To ensure the City provides sustainable and managed growth that supports healthy places to live, work, play, and learn.*



BACKGROUND

PLANNING AND LAND USE

In 1969, Woodland Park established its first zoning ordinance and zoning map of the Town. Six years later the City approved a Home Rule Charter. In 1994, the City's Master Plan identified that the most important land use objective was to balance the community's growth with its ability to supply future residents and businesses with water and other city services. As a result, Woodland Park overhauled its entire zoning ordinance and the Master Plan was reviewed and updated in 1999. In 2010, the Master Plan was updated with a Comprehensive Plan. This 2021 Comprehensive Plan update, otherwise

known as Envision Woodland Park 2030, reflects updates to the 2010 Plan.

Planning for land use and growth is essential to provide orderly development and assure continuation of resources and services for residents and businesses within Woodland Park now and in the future. The City's land use regulations (e.g., zoning code, subdivision regulations) and Master Plans have guided Woodland Park in promoting public safety, health, convenience, comfort, prosperity, and the general welfare of the community.

Table 1. Woodland Park Population Trends: 2000-2025*

	2000	2010	Change	2020 Census	Change	2025*	Change
Population	6,515	7,117	9%	8,151	15%	8,686	7%
Households (HH)	2,476	3,141	27%	3,640	17%	3,740	2%
Average HH Size	2.63	2.47	-6%	2.22	-10%	2.32	4%
Median Age	37.2	44.2	19%	46.1**	4%	48.3	5%

Data from the Census American Community Survey, the State Demographer, and Woodland Park 2020 parcel data

**Future Data from ESRI Business Analyst*

***Median Age was calculated from 2019 ACS data*

POPULATION AND GROWTH

According to the census, Woodland Park had a 2020 population of 8,151 people. The City grew by roughly 1,030 residents between 2010 and 2020, for an average increase of 1.6 percent per year. At a 1.6 percent annual growth, the population is expected to reach 9,335 in 2030 and 10,690 in 2040.

The City has a total water supply of 1,475 acre feet/year. Due to conservation and water wise initiatives, there is enough water to grow to a population of 13,600. The City and community recognized this issue and developed City Code management tools or regulations to link the future usage of water with new land use development. City staff and City Council have developed multifamily water tap criteria that help

ensure that new water taps are appropriately distributed. These criteria help identify which projects are the best high-density residential uses of this finite water service capacity. City Council recognizes that each approval of a project or land use change that uses some of these taps increases the risk of having to fund expensive future water development to close a potential gap between water needs and water supply.

Public input to Envision Woodland Park showed a broad cognizance of limited water supply and leaned toward planning with a population cap of 13,600 with the option to re-evaluate if more water becomes available through water storage, re-use, and/or re-allocation.

Woodland Park Percent of Population by Age



U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2019

Population demographics are trending toward a decrease in the 35-54 age group and a decrease in youth from babies to ten years of age. There are significant increases, however, in the 25-35 age group and those aged 60 and older. This increasing demographic number in older generations is typical across the United States and is important to consider when designing the built environment for retired residents. The total population of the City has boomed since 2016 and Teller County is expected to continue growing.

Table 2. Regional Population Trends

	2000	2010	% Increase	2020	% Increase
Woodland Park	6,515	7,117	9%	8,151	15%
Cripple Creek	1,115	1,193	7%	1,266	6%
Manitou Springs	4,980	4,961	0%	5,461	10%
Colorado Springs	360,890	403,983	12%	482,131	19%
Teller County	20,555	22,821	11%	25,529	12%
El Paso County	516,929	599,988	16%	728,310	21%
State of Colorado	4,262,989	4,887,061	15%	5,807,719	19%

U.S. Decennial Census 2000, 2010, 2020

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

LAND USE AND GROWTH GOAL 1: *Provide opportunities for growth and development while preserving community and environmental quality.*

Land Use and Growth Objective 1.1: Ensure that new development fits the intent of the Future Land Use Map and uses the land and community resources/facilities efficiently and in an environmentally sensitive manner. All new development, expansion, and redevelopment should contribute to Woodland Park’s mountain-western identity.

Land Use and Growth Action 1.1.1: Continue to implement the Tap Management Plan to reach a buildout population of 13,600 residents. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.1.2: Maintain the land use and vacant lot inventory throughout the community to determine long-range land use potential. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.1.3: Ensure that development fits with the intent of the Comprehensive Plan Map and the Comprehensive Plan goals, objectives, and actions. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.1.4: Use the Comprehensive Plan Map to help determine if proposed changes to the City’s Zoning Map are appropriate. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.1.5: Ensure that contemplated projects:

- Respect and consider the property rights of all impacted adjoining property owners and neighbors;
- Maintain the overall integrity and character of Woodland Park neighborhoods; and
- Are sufficiently harmonious within land uses in the adjacent vicinity in order to preserve and protect the values of those properties in the same or adjacent zones. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.1.6: Identify and enhance existing neighborhood focal points and explore ways to add neighborhood features or focal points (e.g., entry signs or architectural features) that celebrate the area’s culture, history, and environment. (3-5 years)

Land Use and Growth Objective 1.2: Evaluate City regulations and requirements to ensure that a proposed development’s negative impact on the neighborhood and commercial district in which it will be located is minimized, and the positive impact is optimized. Ensure that development is consistent with the goals, objectives, and actions in this Plan.

Land Use and Growth Action 1.2.1: Review and revise the zoning code and specific City land use categories as needed to ensure that they:

- Encourage mixed-use buildings such as live/work units downtown and in new neighborhoods;
- Encourage accessory dwelling units such as mother-in-law suites that can function as small apartments;
- Are easy to understand and use;
- Are enforceable through prompt and fair procedures; and
- Include appropriate dimensional standards and setbacks for various land use categories. (1-2 years)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.2.2: Evaluate the existing zoning district matrix to ensure that it is consistent with land use categories as designated within this Plan. (1-2 years)

Land Use and Growth Objective 1.3: Consider development options that mitigate the impact of growth and development (i.e., fiscal/budgetary constraints, road congestion, overcrowded schools).

Land Use and Growth Action 1.3.1: Ensure that the City has adequate capacity and infrastructure available to serve a development prior to or in conjunction with its approval. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.3.2: Continue to review and coordinate with the RE-2 School District regarding future housing projects that may have a significant impact on school enrollment. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.3.3: Explore approaches for vacating common lot lines of small undeveloped (7,500 square foot) lots of record. (3-5 years)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.3.4: Continually monitor and update development fee structures that provide the appropriate level of funding for services required as a result of new development. (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Objective 1.4: Update the City’s annexation policies to be consistent with this Plan and consistent with the ability to provide all municipal services, in conjunction with population growth.

Land Use and Growth Action 1.4.1: Review the existing Annexation Plan and policies to ensure that they reflect the City’s preferred pattern of growth and to ensure that they are consistent with the City’s ability to provide municipal services. (1-2 years)

Land Use and Growth Objective 1.5: Work with neighboring counties and Green Mountain Falls to ensure consistency when establishing short- and long-range planning priorities.

Land Use and Growth Action 1.5.1: Implement intergovernmental agreements between Teller and El Paso counties and the City of Woodland Park to adopt a common land use plan and policy for those growth management areas surrounding the City. (1-2 years)

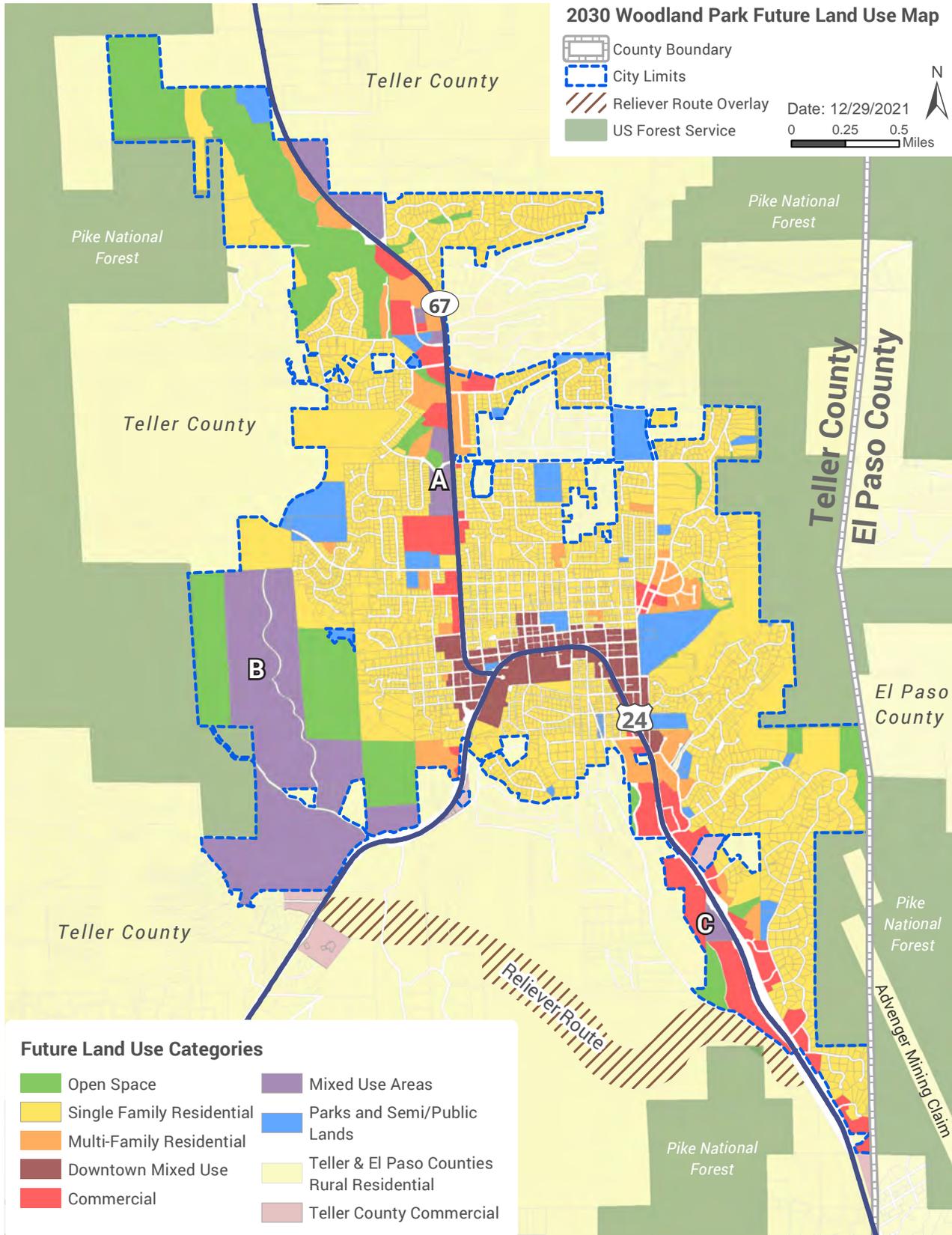
Land Use and Growth Action 1.5.2: Continue to work with the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments and other communities within and surrounding the Pikes Peak region to establish long-term planning policies in areas of common concern (transportation, water/sewer, land use, environment, drainage, etc.). (Ongoing)

Land Use and Growth Action 1.5.3: Review and amend the Woodland Park Planning Region and Growth Boundary, as described by and administered through the 2020 Teller County Growth Management Plan. (1-2 years)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010
- Teller County Growth Management Plan, 2020

FUTURE LAND USE MAP



WOODLAND PARK FUTURE LAND USE MAP DESCRIPTION

The Future Land Use Map provides guidance for rezoning requests, annexation proposals, new development, and redevelopment projects within the City limits. Its purpose is to honor the City's existing zoning map while providing both direction and flexibility for a sustainable balance of uses in future development or redevelopment proposals. Comments and direction provided by the community have been incorporated in land use descriptions and designations. Within the unincorporated areas of Teller County surrounding Woodland Park, the map identifies the type of low impact growth that may occur within the planning area and at the gateways to Woodland Park.

The Future Land Use Map identifies locations for the most appropriate future land use within the broad categories. The land use designation of each area is based on what is currently in place; what the community would like to see more of; and identification of harmonious uses that do not infringe on the existing land uses. Water use is a major consideration in land use planning and ensures that a diversity of land uses are planned for with the amount of water available. A more detailed description of each land use designation is listed below:

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL includes areas of the City that are already zoned Suburban Residential (SR), Urban Residential (UR), or are within an existing Planned Unit Development (PUD) and planned for single-family densities. Suburban Residential is limited to one dwelling unit per gross acre with the option to cluster development if approved through a public hearing process. Urban Residential has a maximum density of two dwelling units per acre. These areas are designed to be safe, connected, family friendly neighborhoods that support a variety of ages with easy access. Single family areas within the City limits have access to City utilities. These land uses also support places of worship that are surrounded by single family land uses.



MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL includes areas of the City that are currently zoned as Multi-Family Residential Suburban (MFRS), Multi-Family Residential Urban (MFRU), as well as planned Multi-family districts and existing developments identified as possible areas to support higher density development. The MFRS zone district has a maximum density of eight dwelling units per acre. The MFRU zone district has a maximum density of twenty dwelling units per acre. This land use represents a medium to high density housing option to accommodate attached units such as townhomes or duplexes, as well as multi-family housing. Located closer to high-activity areas to promote walkability, they have easy access to major roads, and often serve as a land use placed between single family and commercial or civic areas.



COMMERCIAL includes areas of the City that are currently zoned Community Commercial (CC), Service Commercial (SC), Neighborhood Commercial (NC), and Planned Unit Development (PUD) intended for commercial. These areas support large and small scale commercial uses such as service, lodging, retail, automotive, as well as commercial uses that support their residential neighborhoods with uses such as trade work, office, neighborhood restaurant, corner market, or other local services.

Commercial uses should be primarily located along major thoroughfares. The southern tip of Woodland Park along Highway 24 has a gateway commercial role as the “front door” of the community and should maintain a welcoming atmosphere that is easy to access, has well maintained drainage systems, and supports the character of the community. In the event that a reliever route is developed, this area may need to shift due to a change in traffic flows. These shifts could necessitate changes in access, parking, and density.



DOWNTOWN MIXED USE: To help recognize and promote vitality in the downtown area, the Downtown Development Area boundary was used to identify the Downtown Future Land Use District. Establishing the downtown as its own character area helps to promote the identity and cohesion that is desired as development and redevelopment occur. The zoning categories in downtown include Central Business District (CBD), Community Commercial (CC), Urban Residential (UR), and Planned Unit Development (PUD). Neighborhood Commercial and Public/Semipublic areas north of the Downtown Development Boundary have maintained their land use classifications to illustrate the transition to downtown residential.



Kim Smith

MIXED USE AREAS support a diversity of uses. This can be vertical mixed use or horizontal mixed use. These areas are typically in high use areas that are not currently developed. Specific characteristics are desired for each of the three identified mixed-use areas. A description of each mixed use area is listed below with a key on the map.



A: The area along Highway 67 already supports nodes of commercial development. Other areas are flexible in development as non-residential mixed use. The primary reason for discouraging residential development along the highway in the mixed use area is to provide a balance of employment and service land uses to serve the community and to ensure there is enough water to provide service to planned residential areas.



B: Area B is comprised of the approved Sturman PUD and Sanctuary PUD (Charis Bible College). The Sanctuary PUD will have event space, a café, educational facilities, and group quarter housing for students.

C: The southern entrance to Woodland Park is zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD) and Service Commercial (SC). As this area develops and re-develops, this area can support a variety of gateway uses such as commercial, office, public-semipublic areas, and limited medium to high density residential development.



PARKS AND SEMI-PUBLIC AREAS include areas of the City that are already zoned Public/Semi-public such as school sites, library, parks, and other public and semi-public institutions. These areas are distributed throughout the community to provide equitable service and discourage traffic jams at key times. These areas support events, festivals, and other community celebrations.

OPEN SPACE includes areas of the City that have been designed as open space either through a PUD designation, Conservation Easement, or as identified by the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan.

UNINCORPORATED TELLER AND EL PASO COUNTY areas are shown primarily as rural residential (light yellow) areas outside the City limits. The majority of these unincorporated areas are designated as rural residential or agriculture which includes lots of 10 acres or more in Teller County and 5 acres or more in El Paso County unless it was previously subdivided or is served by central water and sewer services. The commercial Teller County tracts that are adjacent to U.S. 24 and considered enclaves within the City are shown as commercial. Many of the areas outside of the City limits are either owned by the U.S. Forest Service or have a slope over 30 percent that limits development. Due to constrained water resources, the City does not intend to annex any areas that are not currently served by City utilities.

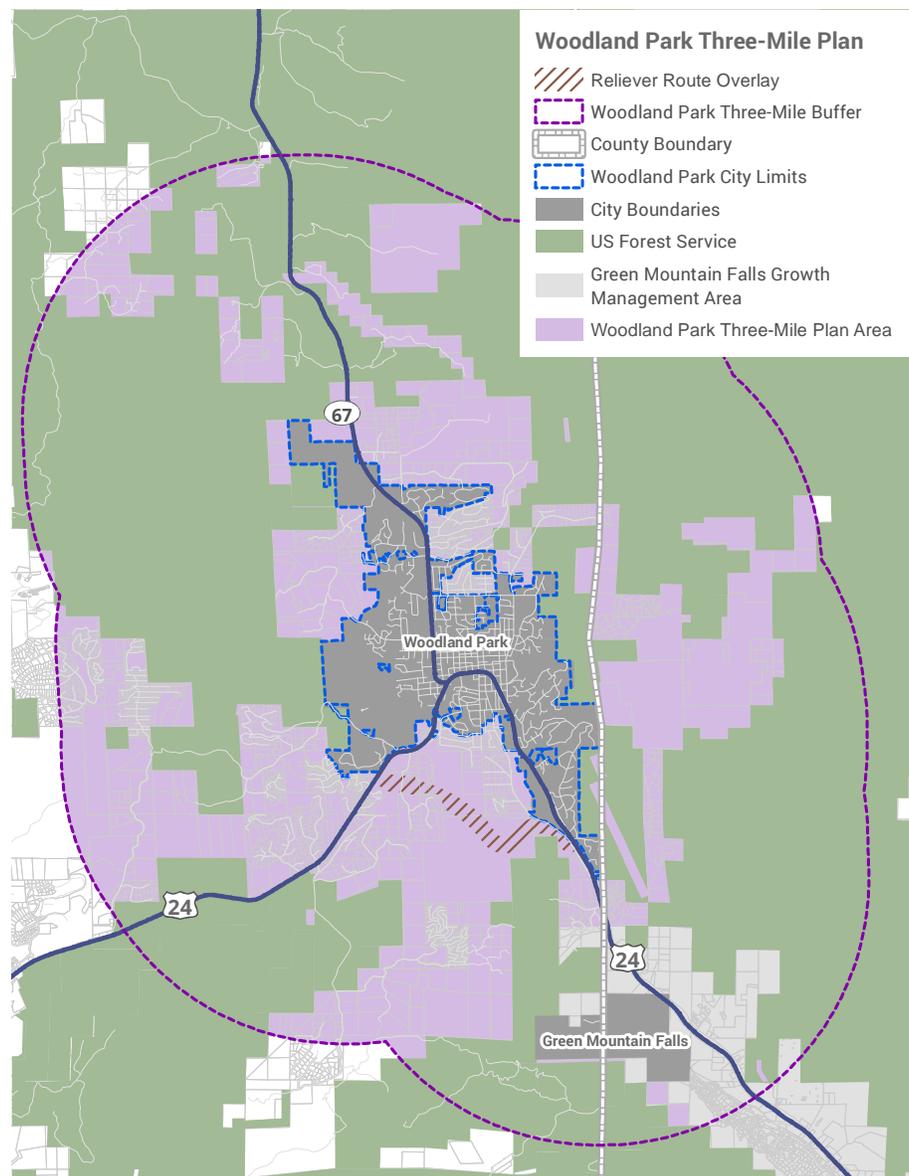
RELIEVER ROUTE OVERLAY While not located within the City limits, the area identified as a potential location for a Highway 24 reliever route has also been identified with a hatch pattern in the future land use map. The City does not have jurisdiction over this area, but in the event of a re-route in this area the City will work with the County as part of the three mile plan to ensure that no new commercial development or high density uses are developed in this area.



THREE-MILE PLAN MAP

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) describes the Three-Mile Plan as a long-range planning opportunity for municipalities to use to consider where they want to annex, how they will provide services in the newly annexed areas, and how they will sustain adequate levels of service throughout the rest of the municipality. It ensures that the municipality will annex land only when it is consistent with pre-existing plans for the surrounding area. Per Colorado State Statute, every municipality is required to annually review their Three-Mile Plan. The Three-mile Plan does not indicate that annexation in these areas is imminent, but it does require that major developments that occur within these areas are considered by the City and the County in terms of their long-term plans, services, and transportation. The map below illustrates the extent of a three-mile buffer in a dashed purple line around the existing City limits of Woodland Park. Much of the area within this boundary is designated U.S. Forest Service land. The only other municipality within the three-mile

buffer is Green Mountain Falls. Green Mountain Falls established a Growth Management Area in 2018, which is identified in grey on the map. The purple fill area indicates the contiguous non-conserved lands, or private property, within the three-mile buffer of the existing City limits. Any future development proposals within the Three Mile Plan will be reviewed in partnership between the City and the County and are subject to the current Teller County and El Paso County Land Use Regulations. The City does not anticipate annexation beyond the outer City limits due to water supply constraints, but would be open to annexation of enclaves that already receive City utilities.







Housing

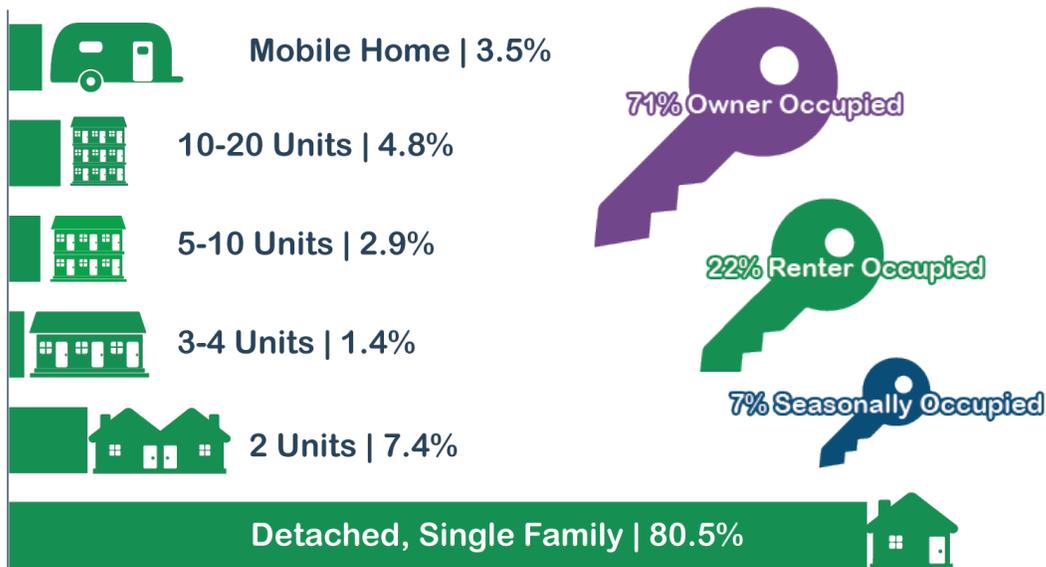
Vision: *Support a diversity of housing types that provide a safe living environment for all stages of life.*



BACKGROUND

Woodland Park’s housing supply is reflective of its long history – well over 30 percent of the houses in the City are older than 40 years; an important factor when reviewing code, historic resources, and community character. Housing types include custom homes, single-family homes, townhomes, old cabins, apartments, and mobile homes. Future growth will be constrained by the limits of the City’s water supply and the limited land available for development. As a result, future efforts may be focused on maintaining, upgrading,

and renovating the existing housing supply. The limited new housing needs to uphold the character of the community, individual residential neighborhoods, and commercial centers. As Woodland Park’s housing inventory evolves, the City will continue its past efforts and emphasis on respecting individual property rights, preserving residential property values, and ensuring that neighborhood integrity, character, and design are key considerations.



U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2019

ATTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

“The industry definition of attainable, for-sale housing is unsubsidized, profitable housing developments that meet the needs of those with incomes between 80% and 120% of the Area Median Income” (Robert Charles Lesser & Co. (RCLCO) Real-Estate Consulting).

“Affordable housing is generally defined as housing on which the occupant is paying no more than 30 percent of gross income for housing costs, including utilities” (Housing and Urban Development [HUD]).

The City supports the development of attainable and affordable housing where feasible. Guidance on regional benefits and actions can be found in the 2016 Teller County Affordable Housing Needs Assessment in the “Opportunities for Increasing Affordable Housing in Teller County” chapter.

Table 3. Regional Population Trends

	2010	2019	Increase
Median Household Price	\$241,200	\$323,500	34%
Median Household Income	\$63,993	\$77,912	22%

Data from the Census American Community Survey, the

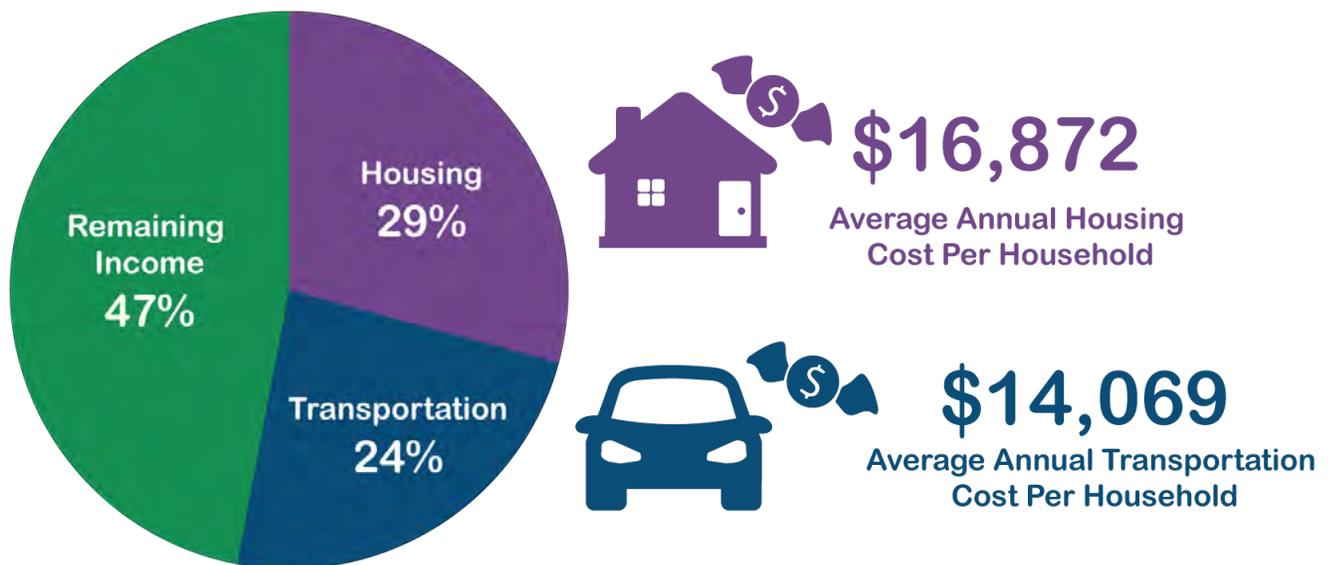
The rapid inflation in housing cost is attributed to more people working remotely, high demand vs. supply of homes, and the scarcity of resource materials. While there are a variety of housing types in Woodland Park, single-family residential development makes up over 80 percent of existing housing, primarily owner occupied with 22 percent being renter occupied. The 2020 census estimated approximately 3,370 housing units in Woodland Park. It is estimated that 7.6 percent are considered vacant, 103 of which are short-term rentals and vacation homes that are occasionally occupied.



Source Habitat for Humanity of Teller County Trailhead Townhomes drawing <https://www.tellerhabitat.org/home/projects/trailhead-homes>

To address part of the demand for attainable housing for working families in Woodland Park, Habitat for Humanity of Teller County is building an 18-unit development of 2 and 3 bedroom duplexes that are expected to be completed in Summer of 2022 (source: TellerHabitat.org). This approach directly supports local workers who cannot afford other housing options.

Chart 1. Housing and Transportation Costs as a Percent of Household Income

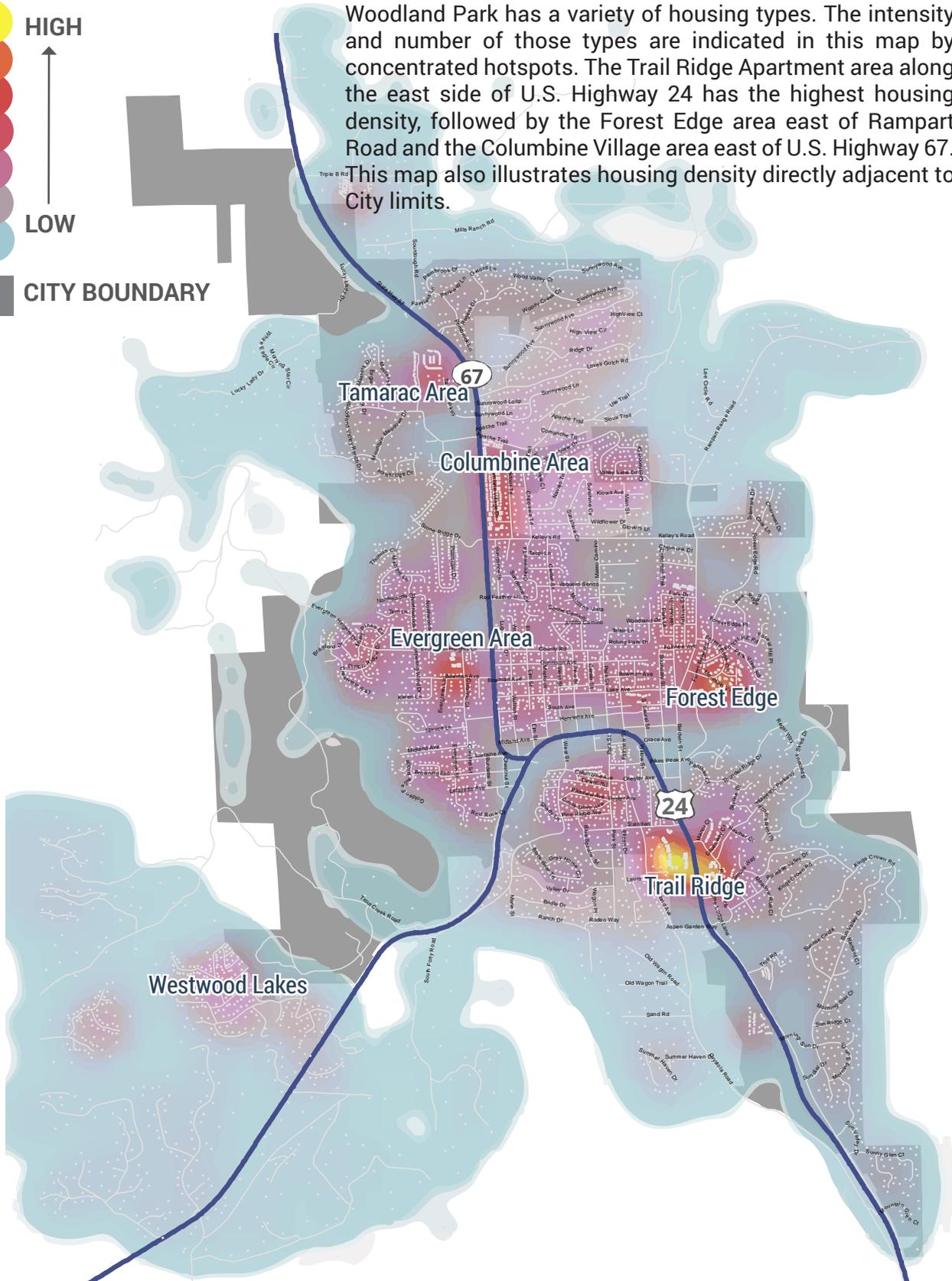


The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT)

HOUSING DENSITY MAP



Woodland Park has a variety of housing types. The intensity and number of those types are indicated in this map by concentrated hotspots. The Trail Ridge Apartment area along the east side of U.S. Highway 24 has the highest housing density, followed by the Forest Edge area east of Rampart Road and the Columbine Village area east of U.S. Highway 67. This map also illustrates housing density directly adjacent to City limits.



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Housing Goal 1: *Provide a balanced and diverse housing supply that is well-designed, well-maintained, and available to all citizens throughout the entire community.*

Housing Objective 1.1: Promote stable and safe neighborhoods that provide a variety of housing options.

Housing Action 1.1.1: Encourage each new project or subdivision to add to the mix of housing models and styles to ensure that housing types enable people to remain in the community as their needs change and protect existing neighborhoods' property values and character. (Ongoing)

Housing Action 1.1.2: Review and revise Woodland Park's zoning code to promote mixed-use buildings such as live/work units downtown. (1-2 years)

Housing Action 1.1.3: Review and revise code for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and flexible housing to encourage ADUs and boarding rooms to contribute to managed infill where appropriate with smaller, more attainable housing options. (1-2 years)

Housing Action 1.1.4: Consider allowing an increase in density for new or redeveloped single-family and multi-family projects. (1-2 years)

Housing Action 1.1.5: Review and revise current utility and infrastructure requirements that facilitate development cost reductions. (1-2 years)

Housing Action 1.1.6: Work with Teller County to update the 2016 Housing Needs Assessment. (3-5 years)

Housing Action 1.1.7: Encourage new attainable and affordable housing development opportunities and to integrate into new residential projects, when feasible. (Ongoing)

Housing Objective 1.2: Support improvement of existing homes and neighborhoods.

Housing Action 1.2.1: Work with landlords and nonprofits to match properties in need of improvements with available community assistance. (Ongoing)

Housing Action 1.2.2: Promote community-wide cleanup campaigns to maintain and improve the look and feel of the community. (1-2 years)

Housing Action 1.2.3: Identify key pedestrian corridors for installation of new sidewalks and maintenance of existing sidewalks. (6+ years)

Housing Action 1.2.4: Work with the Woodland Park Historical Preservation Committee and interested residents to integrate historic preservation with modern technologies to meet future housing needs. (3-5 years)

Housing Action 1.2.5: While reviewing applications for new construction of improvements in residential neighborhoods with covenants, the Planning staff will refer applicants to the Homeowners Associations and Architectural Control Committees. (Ongoing)

Housing Action 1.2.6: Consider neighborhood preservation and protection provisions when new neighborhoods are adjacent to existing neighborhoods. (Ongoing)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Teller County Housing Needs Assessment, 2016
- Teller County Strategic Housing Plan, 2006
- The Woodland Park Community Housing Assessment Team Report, 2000
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010



CENTER ST



THE INN



Community Character and Design

Vision: *Enhance Woodland Park's identity and protect the mountain environment, wildlife, and scenic beauty.*



BACKGROUND

Woodland Park’s 1991 Downtown Redevelopment Plan sets the stage for community character, identifying the community’s architecture and look as “mountain-western.” The City zoning code includes design standards to encourage the use of architectural materials that are compatible with the natural forested surroundings at the base of Pikes Peak. Today, Woodland Park has a variety of mountain-western architectures ranging from historic log cabins and mining structures to Southwestern, Craftsman, Victorian, and “resort” styled structures.

Community identity is important to Woodland Park. A cohesive design and vision is needed, including the visual quality of community gateways and emphasis on the importance of maintaining the small-town character and environmental quality that attracts people to the area. Opportunities for establishing that vision have been identified in the 2019 Community Placemaking Plan, including creation of pedestrian enhancements, building façade improvements, public art, and others. These elements, when installed in a thoughtful manner that celebrates the mountain-western character, can reflect pride, heritage, and the importance of place.



Photo by Kierstyn Peterson



Photo by Kim Smith

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Community Character and Design Goal 1: *Promote design efforts that enhance Woodland Park’s small-town atmosphere and provide present day conveniences, while protecting the mountain environment.*

Community Character and Design Objective 1.1:

Continue to implement a quality design standard for development to create a mountain-western theme throughout Woodland Park that emphasizes mountain decorative design elements.

Community Character and Design

Action 1.1.1: Ensure that all new development is compatible with existing design standards. (Ongoing)

Community Character and Design

Action 1.1.2: Follow design standards (WP MC 18.33.180) and update zoning to require developers to demonstrate how their projects incorporate the design standards. (Ongoing)

Community Character and Design Objective 1.2:

Strengthen downtown, new neighborhoods, and redeveloping areas by promoting a mix of uses, attractive appearance, and connection to the rest of the community.

Community Character and Design

Action 1.2.1: Promote compatible infill that incorporates the character of its neighborhood. (Ongoing)

Community Character and Design

Action 1.2.2: Encourage citizen involvement in neighborhood planning processes with interactive, proactive, and openly transparent communication and engagement. (1-2 years)

Community Character and Design Objective 1.3:

Establish a sense of entry into the City.

Community Character and Design Action

1.3.1: Continue efforts to enhance Woodland Park’s entrances, provide a strong connection from the gateways to downtown and other community destinations and develop specific design standards for City entrances. (3-5 years)

Community Character and Design

Action 1.3.2: Enhance the existing wayfinding sign system that identifies key community destinations. (1-2 years)

Community Character and Design

Action 1.3.3: Pursue inter-governmental agreements (IGAs) with El Paso County in addition to the Teller County IGA to jointly manage planning of the rural and urban transitions along all highways in the Ute Pass area; seek conservation easements where viable; and strive to “preserve the pass” with its natural character. (3-5 years [El Paso County], 1-2 years [Teller County])

Community Character and Design Objective 1.4:

Use landscaping standards and/or programs that complement the surrounding community and environment.

Community Character and Design

Action 1.4.1: Update the zoning code to enhance landscaping requirements for new development. The requirements should include: the type, placement, and maintenance of landscaping; the preservation of naturally forested areas and existing trees to the maximum extent feasible; and irrigation systems. (6+ years)

Community Character and Design Action 1.4.2: Coordinate, evaluate, and maintain the tree and/or woodlot ordinance(s) to preserve and protect the naturally forested areas, while integrating the Wildland Urban Interface Wildfire Protection Plan. (1-2 years)

Community Character and Design Action 1.4.3: Review outdoor lighting standards to further protect the night sky and mitigate light pollution. (1-2 years)

Community Character and Design Action 1.4.4: Review the noise ordinance to mitigate controllable factors that impact the serenity of the small-town environment. (3-5 years)

Community Character and Design Action 1.4.5: Ensure consistent compliance and enforcement of the ordinance and other codes. (Ongoing)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- MC 18.33.180
- Mountain Western Theme Guide, 2018
- Community Placemaking Plan, 2019





Photo by Kierstyn Peterson



Photo by Kierstyn Peterson



MIDLAND AVENUE VISION

Throughout the planning process, the primary issue and opportunity expressed by residents, emergency management providers, and business owners is to reclaim downtown by reducing the amount of traffic and developing quality gathering spaces that exemplify the character of Woodland Park. The renderings on pages 38-41 illustrate components of the desired vision. If U.S. Highway 24 is relocated away from Midland Avenue, many residents would like to see two lanes with on-street parking, safer crosswalks, and widened sidewalks with space to sit and enjoy downtown. Along with the reduction of through traffic, residents would like to see the Woodland Station area developed as a mixed-use area that can support community events and fill in the currently vacant downtown areas.

*Banners &
Celebratory
Signs*

Street Trees

*Sidewalk
Seating*

*Pedestrian
Crossings*

*On-street
Parking*

*Water-wise
Landscaping*

*Multi-modal
Options*





DOWNTOWN CHARACTER & DESIGN

*Mixed Use
Development*

*Community
entertainment
and events*

*Incorporation
of local art and
history*

*Gathering
Spaces*

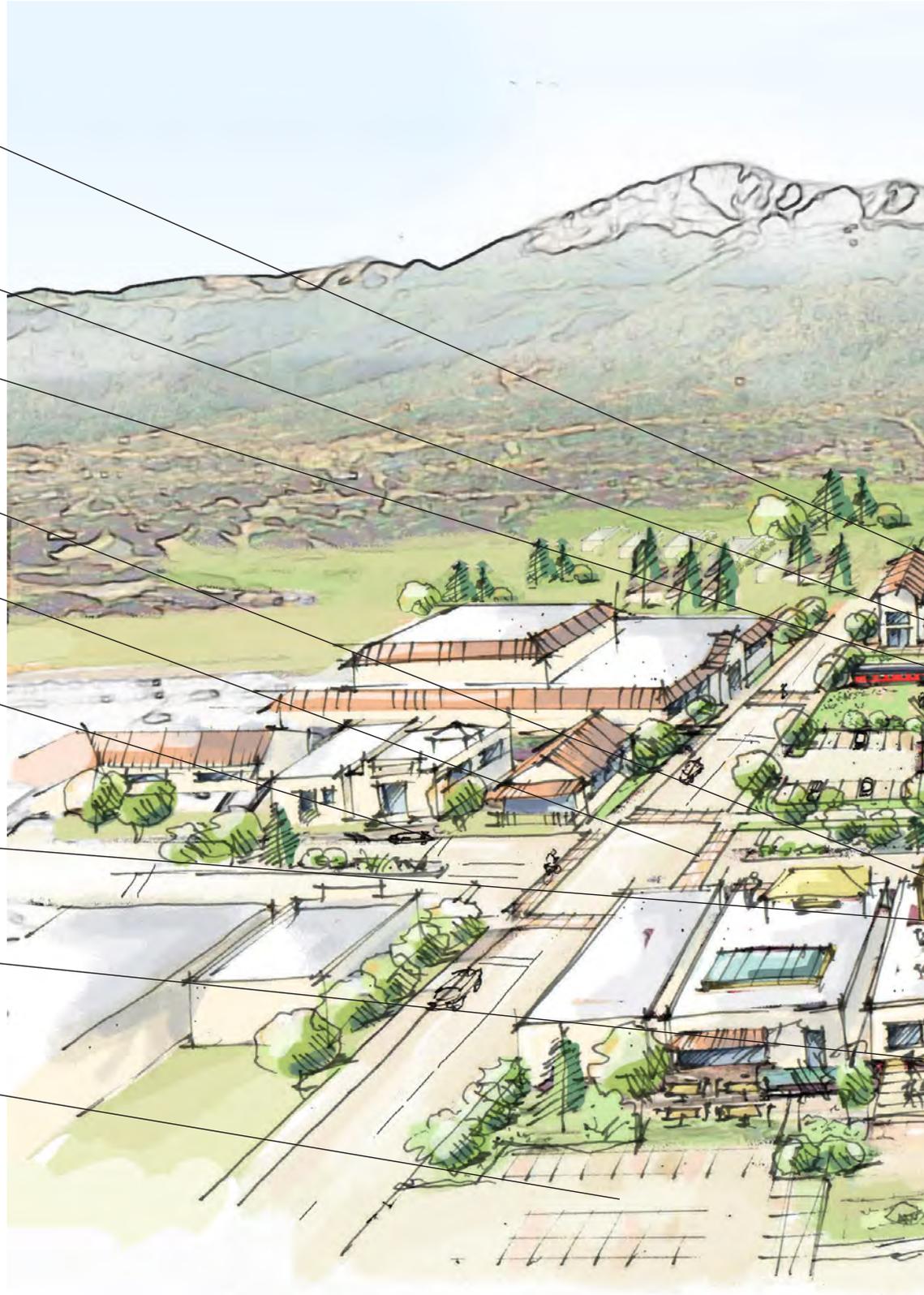
*Pedestrian
Crossings*

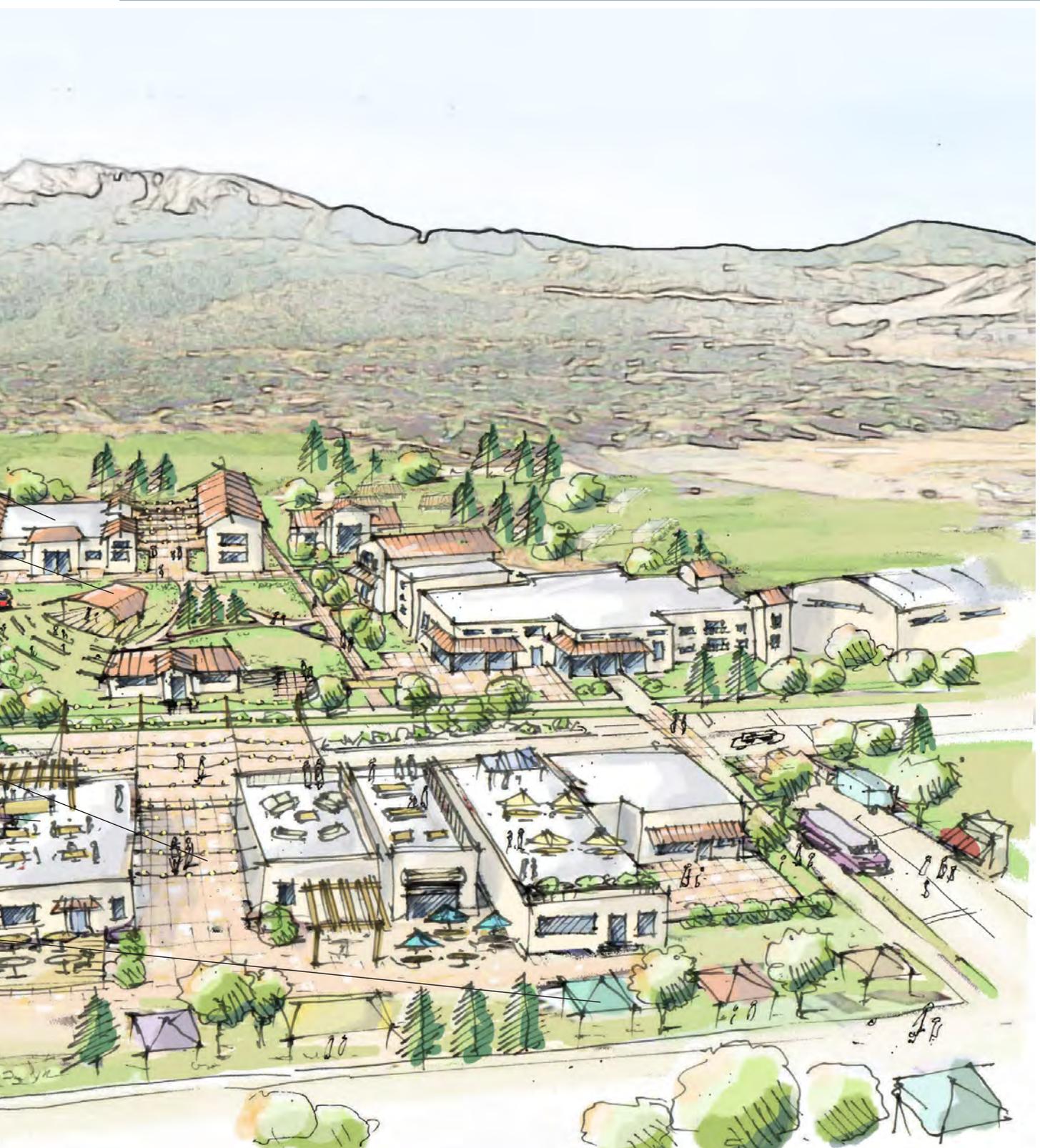
*Onstreet
Parking*

*Rooftop
Dining*

*Community
Pop-up Events*

*Clearly Marked
Parking Areas*







W
WATER SLIDE -
LAZY RIVER -
LAP POOL

SCHOOL
SPEED
LIMIT
20
M.P.H.
NO LEFT TURN





City Finances

Vision: *Maintain the assets of Woodland Park and balance private development with civic investment to ensure continuation of community values and character.*



BACKGROUND

The City continuously strives to be excellent stewards of taxpayer dollars. There is an ongoing effort to double-check budget projections, revenues, and expenditures to ensure that the City is managing funds wisely and is maintaining a healthy reserve for emergencies. To this end, the Finance Director prepares quarterly reports on the City's finances for the City Council to review. As part of the 2019 Strategic Plan, the City has partially developed a long-term Capital Improvements Plan for future investments to prioritize all projects, estimate project costs, and implement department and

community goals as funds become available. Identifying the timeline and cost of projects in the long-term Capital Improvement Plan will benefit City priorities, such as paying off debt.

One priority identified during the Envision Woodland Park update process is a fund to study alternative routes for U.S. Highway 24. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) has funds to study options in 2025 but will require Woodland Park and regional partners to provide 20 percent of the study budget.

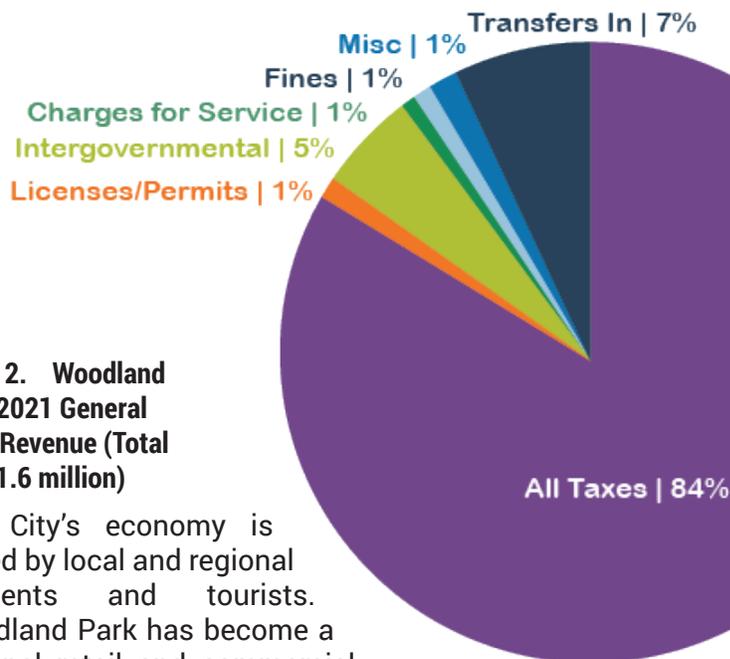
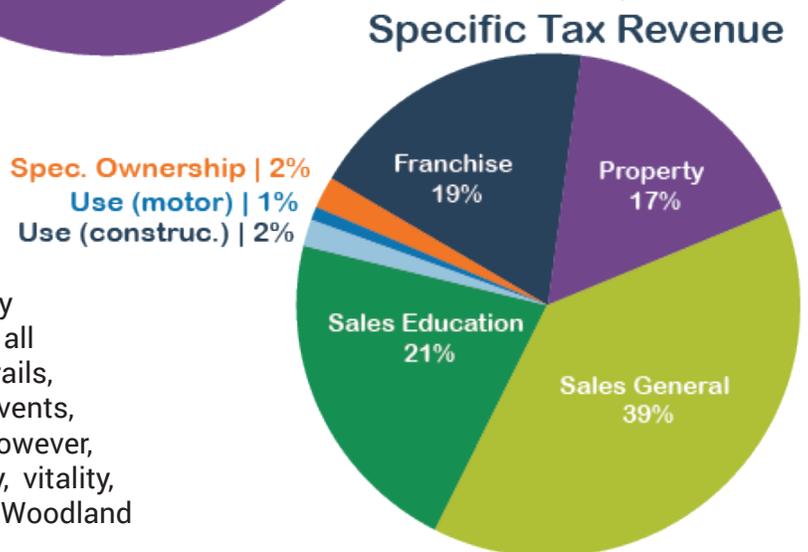


Chart 2. Woodland Park 2021 General Fund Revenue (Total of \$11.6 million)

The City's economy is fueled by local and regional residents and tourists. Woodland Park has become a regional retail and commercial center of Teller and surrounding counties. Woodland Park's taxable retail sales in 2013 totaled \$159.7 million. Only five years later in 2019, taxable sales had increased to nearly \$206.1 million, a roughly 25 percent increase (2019 Market Analysis). The City Finances chapter is closely related to all other chapters in this document. Parks, trails, recreational amenities, roads, utilities, events, and infrastructure all come with a cost; however, those features ensure the health, safety, vitality, and tourism opportunities that make Woodland Park a great place to live and play.



GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

City Finances Goal 1: *Woodland Park will innovatively finance the needs and aspirations of this community in a fiscally responsible manner, which includes continuing to conduct long-term financial planning and maintenance of sustainable City reserves.*

City Finances Objective 1.1: Ensure the City is fiscally responsible.

City Finances Action 1.1.1: Exercise prudent financial practices and policies that maintain City financial solvency and integrity. (Ongoing)

City Finances Action 1.1.2: Develop a financial plan that identifies a 17-25 percent reserve fund goal; avoids creating City debt; establishes a target for financial performance; and sets metrics, goals, and definitions of fiscal responsibility. (1-2 years)

City Finances Action 1.1.3: Create a five-year long-term financial plan. As part of the process, review historical data from prior budgets and note the areas facing increased strain without offsetting revenues. The City will then operate on the proposed annual budget. (3-5 years)

City Finances Action 1.1.4: Consider re-establishing an Economic Development Office within the City or as a private organization that will enable the community to identify new revenue sources and support new businesses. (1-2 years)

City Finances Action 1.1.5: Work with staff to develop a five- to ten-year capital improvement and maintenance plan for all departments within the City. Consider the impact of current plans (such as the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan, and other City plans) on future line items, as well as required funding. (3-5 years)

City Finances Action 1.1.6: Safeguard and provide funds for the 2025 Reliever Route Study in partnership with CDOT. (1-2 years)

City Finances Objective 1.2: Explore non-traditional revenue sources.

City Finances Action 1.2.1: Explore methods to diversify the City's revenues. (1-2 years)

City Finances Action 1.2.2: Investigate peer cities to learn from their experiences; examine their revenue streams; keep apprised of new trends; and discover new ways to attract visitors. (Ongoing)

City Finances Action 1.2.3: Partner with the Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Advocacy Group, and other stakeholders to enhance the City's marketing plan. (Ongoing)

City Finances Action 1.2.4: valuate, manage, and track lodging tax funds (1-2 years)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- City of Woodland Park 2021
- Operating and Capital Improvement Budget 2021Market
- Market Analysis, 2019



Dinosaur Center

PREHISTORIC Paradise

Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Re



Economic Development and Tourism

Vision: *Prioritize projects, land use changes, and development that benefits the community in multiple ways and considers existing and future conditions for residents, visitors, and resources.*



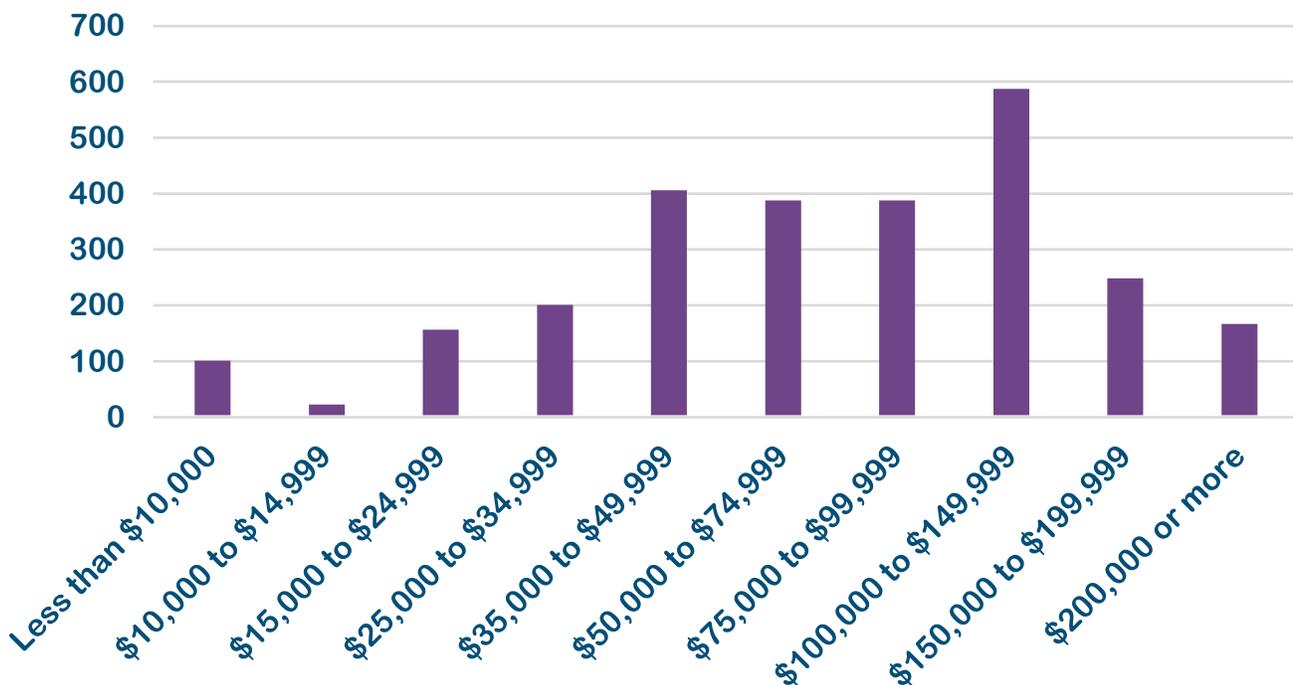
BACKGROUND

Approximately 17 percent of the developed land uses within the current City limits contain employment-focused areas such as stores, offices, and public institutions. Additionally, much of the vacant land within the City limits is zoned for employment-focused land uses. The businesses and offices currently within the City support 2,526 jobs according to the 2018 census. The majority of those are held by individuals between 30 and 54 years of age. The demographic trend toward more students and retirees is reflected in the limited number of employees per capita. There are approximately 0.7 jobs per household in Woodland Park compared to the Colorado State average of 1 job per household. Currently between 4 percent and 6 percent of the City’s overall land area has an employment-based zoning category and remains vacant.

There are opportunities and challenges to starting a business in Woodland Park. Public feedback as part of the Envision Woodland Park process indicated that there are growing

demographic and regional opportunities. At the same time, many noted that the seasonal change, and cost of living in Woodland Park can make it difficult to attract employers. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the retail, office, and employment sectors significantly and it will be important to track trends to identify which changes are permanent. Stakeholders, residents, and students indicated a desire for more experiential businesses such as restaurants, retail, and entertainment (like bowling or escape rooms) to energize downtown. Acknowledging that a significant amount of shopping is moving online; the college student population is increasing; and County residents visit Woodland Park on a regular basis for necessities, it is important to be flexible in responding to changing conditions. The Market Demand Retail Study conducted in 2019 shows an opportunity to expand goods and services in several categories for which residents are going to Colorado Springs, including automobile sales and restaurants.

Chart 3. Number of Households by Income Range



U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates 2019

EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

The primary employers of Woodland Park are in big-box retail, education, accommodations, and food services, highlighting Woodland Park’s role as a County hub, college town, and tourism destination. The average wage per capita is \$34,852 in Woodland Park; however, the “Number of Households by Income Range” graph on the previous page shows that most

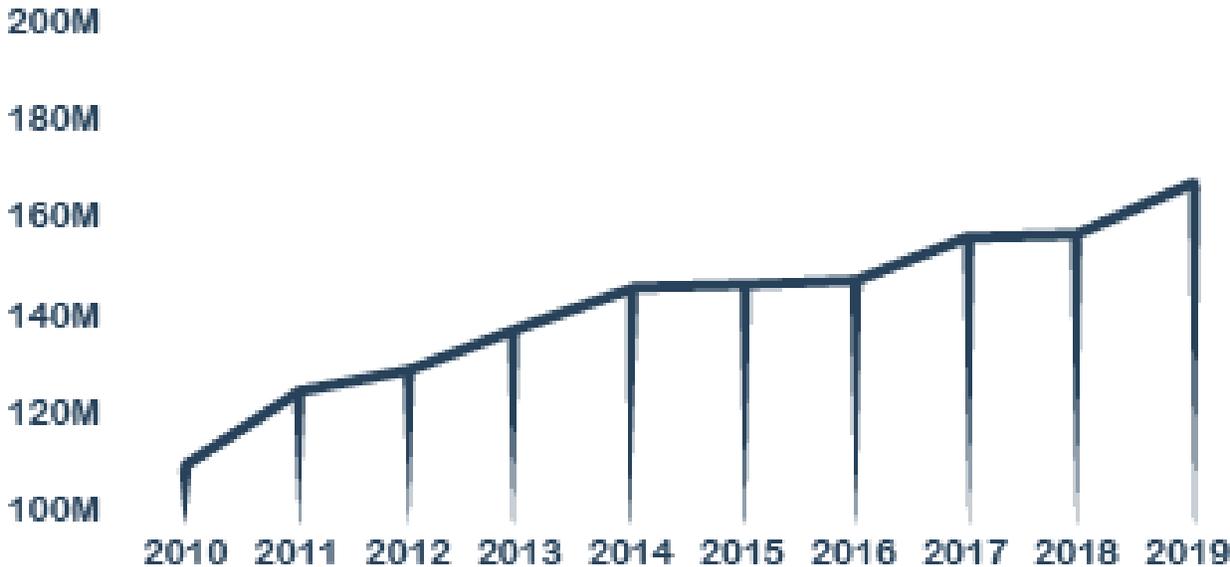
of the City households (60 percent) earn \$50,000 per year or more. The Census Bureau estimated the 2019 median household income of Woodland Park as \$77,912. Many employed residents do not work in Woodland Park but commute to Colorado Springs or surrounding areas and many who are employed in Woodland Park live outside the City.

TOURISM

One of the biggest issues and opportunities in Woodland Park is tourism. Every summer tens of thousands of cars pass through Woodland Park each day on their way from the Front Range to the mountains. This provides an opportunity to engage and capture revenue in recreation and tourism activities from the travelers on their way to camping and exploring. This seasonal influx of traffic also causes a range of problems from making Midland Avenue (Main Street) an unpleasant place to “hang out”, delayed emergency response times,

and resident frustration. Some residents are concerned that promoting tourism in Woodland Park would further exacerbate the traffic issue. If traffic were not an issue, most people would support year-round tourism. All agree that any type of low-impact winter tourism would be beneficial for supporting businesses year-round. Tourism dollars are increasing, likely due to the population increases in Colorado Springs and throughout the region. Approximately \$165,000 in revenue was generated from lodging funds in the first half of 2021.

Chart 4. Teller County Overnight Tourism Travel Spending (\$Millions [M])



Colorado Travel Impacts 2000-2019, Dean Runyan Associates, Colorado Tourism Office, Office of Economic Development and International Trade



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Economic Development Goal 1: *Provide enhanced job opportunities in the area; expand the availability of products, services, and amenities in the community; and facilitate the export of products, services, and experiences to capture new revenue sources.*

Economic Development Objective 1.1: Utilize the knowledge, insight, creativity, and analytical skills of stakeholders and others for strategic guidance, mentoring, and engagement of economic and downtown development. Programs should support the retention, expansion, and recruitment of primary employers and other operations, which will add goods, services, products, and amenities that complement the mountain-western lifestyle and enhance downtown Woodland Park.

Economic Development Action 1.1.1: Organize task forces or committees of stakeholders to engage in the economic development vision. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Objective 1.2: Retain area businesses and assist with expansion or adding complementary businesses to create clusters and critical mass.

Economic Development Action 1.2.1: Create volunteer teams to visit and learn about company needs and aspirations. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.2.2: Whenever possible, assist businesses in problem-solving before a crisis forces relocation or dissolution. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Action 1.2.3: Encourage and assist organizations that wish to market their goods and services beyond the local area. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Objective 1.3: Increase knowledge-based employment in the area that:

- Will offer higher paying jobs;
- has light environmental impact;
- will fit the ambiance of our family friendly mountain-western community; and
- will export goods and services beyond the local area.

Economic Development Action 1.3.1: Identify knowledge-based enterprises with the potential to expand in Woodland Park and identify the infrastructure requirements they would need to grow and prosper. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.3.3: Pursue rural infrastructure stimulus dollars, grants, and/or private investment to address communication, broadband internet service, and other infrastructure needs. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.3.4: Support business development or redevelopment that contributes toward the vision of the City. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Objective 1.4: Increase the area's retail sales.

Economic Development Action 1.4.1: Identify the demand for goods, services, and amenities that is currently lacking in the area by using the 2019 Market Analysis, focus group results, analysis of area bank deposits, and other methods that may be appropriate. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Action 1.4.2: Encourage residential and workplace infill developments near downtown retail locations to augment local demand for retail goods and services, create additional sources of labor for businesses and generate a sense of place through vibrancy and interaction. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.4.3: Build on the existing strengths in the valued restaurant and general merchandise sectors by seeking to attract retailers. Investigate the feasibility of attracting additional retail-service sector businesses, clothing stores, and additional restaurants (fine dining and family). (Ongoing)

Economic Development Objective 1.5: Advocate for the streamlining of codes, policies, and procedures that may add unnecessary barriers to business and economic development.

Economic Development Action 1.5.1: Educate and advocate for reasonable, cost-effective building codes that provide for public and residential safety and which are enforced in an equitable and reasonable manner. (Ongoing, 1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.5.2: Participate in current and future infrastructure planning (e.g., water supply, communications, electrical service). (Ongoing)

Economic Development Action 1.5.3: Educate local business owners regarding property valuations, lease rates, and infrastructure costs to help stabilize merchants' overhead costs and remain competitive with other cities in the region and state. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Objective 1.6: Increase the desirability of Woodland Park as a place to live and work by providing diverse housing options, expanded educational opportunities, and additional community amenities.

Economic Development Action 1.6.1: Investigate the feasibility of constructing workforce housing and introduce mixed-use housing, particularly in the downtown area, to promote an option for living and working in Woodland Park. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Action 1.6.2: Coordinate with higher education providers and other interested parties such as Pikes Peak Community College, University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, Colorado College, the Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce, Woodland Park RE-2 School District, and Rampart Range Library District, to provide more training options to enhance worker skills either on-site or through virtual campuses and distance learning. Create opportunities for life-long learning and advanced degree options. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Action 1.6.3: Continue planning and secure funding for a community recreation center and the enhancement of community amenities. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Action 1.6.4: Explore ways to attract more businesses that offer family friendly activities and social hotspots for young professionals in the City and downtown areas. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Objective 1.7: Expand tourism and visitor expenditures (i.e., import dollars and export experiences).

Economic Development Action 1.7.1: Work with the Chamber of Commerce and others to develop communication tools for publicizing local events and community information that can be sent to:

- Local residents and visitors, particularly people who sign in at the Visitors Center;
- have rented campsites in the area;
- are utilizing retreats/camps; or
- are identified recreation enthusiast groups, cultural groups, etc. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.2: Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce and others on a community marketing plan and support the Chamber's efforts to staff the Visitor Center and market to tourists. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.3: Consider additional types of visitor centers, such as a virtual visitor center, so that people can learn about Woodland Park and plan their trip before leaving home, or a U.S. Forest Service park or City visitor center. Utilize search engine optimization to boost virtual visits. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Action 1.7.4: Create a reputation throughout the region that Woodland Park is a destination for concerts, shows, performances, festivals, etc., by enhancing the cultural, music, and arts activities in Woodland Park via assistance and support to organizations involved with these types of groups and programs. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.5: Create destination activities in the City and downtown area. (6+ years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.6: Work with the stakeholders and other interested parties to promote area retreat facilities as ideal off-site meeting amenities for businesses and other organizations in and beyond the region. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.7: Work with the Chamber of Commerce to establish more winter activities to attract tourists and day visitors throughout the year. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.8: Capitalize on recreational and business opportunities such as off-highway vehicle riding, fishing, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and biking. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Action 1.7.9: Explore opportunities to develop a basecamp location where adventurers can prepare and purchase supplies for extensive mountain treks. (3-5 years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.10: Conduct a study to learn what regional tourists would like to see during all seasons, as well as what visitors traveling along U.S. Highway 24 desire. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Action 1.7.11: Work with groups holding large events to understand event schedules and plan for restaurants and attractions to be open later than usual to capture visitor spending after events. (1-2 years)

Economic Development Objective 1.8: Create a concentration of activity anchors (arts, culture, shops, restaurants, entertainment, services, jobs, and residences) in downtown Woodland Park through the continued operation of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Complete the DDA Foundation Plan and achieve a more vibrant downtown area by concentrating people and "one-of-a-kind" amenities that serve as activity anchors.

Economic Development Action 1.8.1: Develop, redevelop, and plan the economic and physical restoration of the downtown district in continued collaboration with the DDA. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Action 1.8.2: Mitigate downtown impacts on adjacent residential neighborhoods, particularly traffic flow. (Ongoing)

Economic Development Action 1.8.3: Continue to develop projects, designed to serve as the heart of economic development in the downtown area, that will help revitalize and provide new economic direction, focus, and impetus to enhance the downtown corridor. (Ongoing)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Woodland Park Vacancy Study, 2020
- Woodland Park Strategic Plan, 2019
- Market Analysis, 2019
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010







Sustainability

Vision: *Woodland Park thrives as a vibrant mountain community in which to live, raise families, do business, and prosper with a mission to promote, protect, and enhance the natural and built environment through fiscally responsible governance.*

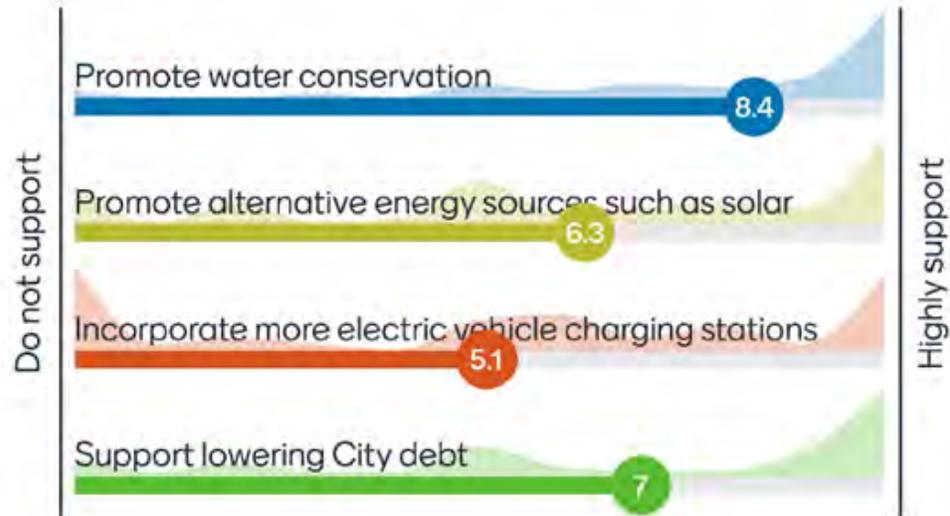


BACKGROUND

Sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The term “sustainable community” is defined uniquely by a community, on the basis of its individual resources, interests, needs, and culture. Most sustainable community definitions focus on long-term integrated systems approaches, healthy communities, and quality-of-life issues by addressing economic, environmental, and social issues. The concept recognizes that economic, environmental, and social issues are interdependent and integrated.

Woodland Park is committed to meeting its current needs without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. A healthy environment is integral to the long-term economic interests of Woodland Park. The City is committed to protecting and restoring the natural environment as subsequent growth management and economic development decisions are made. Sustainability also requires adaptability that allows for changes in use and priorities in the future.

SUSTAINABILITY: Please indicate your level of support for the following



The graphic above illustrates the results of 48 user responses in a live poll taken at the Community Town Hall event. Each question was answered on a digital device. The user was prompted to rate their level of support for each topic ranging from “do not support” to “highly support”. In other public outreach, water conservation and lowering city debt were consistently mentioned as high priorities.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Sustainable City Goal 1: *Ensure that the City of Woodland Park continues as an entity that provides its taxpayers and residents with a range of appropriate, essential government services at a reasonable financial cost.*

Sustainable City Objective 1.1: Emphasize the importance of prudent financial stewardship and exceptional City service to support efficiency and provide services at an appropriate rate.

Sustainable City Action 1.1.1: Ensure that the City spending does not exceed the City's financial resources for any activity or project and does not exceed the financial capacity of the City to meet its entire range of financial obligations as a municipal government. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 1.1.2: Recognizing that the City needs to perpetuate itself through the hiring of new employees

over time, it is imperative that the City establishes succession plans for all key operations and staff. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 1.1.3: Continue to provide City staff with the training, resources, and tools they need to perform their duties in a responsive, effective, and efficient manner. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 1.1.4: Institute formal reviews of the 1974 Woodland Park City Charter by the City Council at least every four years at the election cycle to ensure the City is maintaining an efficient, agile, and responsive government as circumstances change. (1-2 years)

Sustainable City Goal 2: *Promote an inclusive, high-performance government that is responsive to community members' needs.*

Sustainable City Objective 2.1: Maintain a transparent, approachable, and responsive relationship between residents, business owners, and City government or administration.

Sustainable City Action 2.1.1: Continue to prepare the Annual Report to the Community to keep citizens apprised of the City's progress in achieving important goals. Provide occasional updates on the website or via other means when appropriate. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.1.2: Continue to empower customer service and establish metrics to measure the associated results and impacts. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.1.3: Periodically ask for community feedback by administering surveys, providing opportunities to comment on the website, encouraging public comments at City Council meetings, and by meeting with citizens. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Objective 2.2: Make community members aware of the City's priorities, issues, and actions. Provide feedback to citizens on issues raised.

Sustainable City Action 2.2.1: Regularly communicate the City Council's vision and direction. Prominently display annual goals, decisions, and priorities in City Hall and on the website. Contribute articles or press releases to the local news agencies. (Ongoing)



Sustainable City Action 2.2.2: Update as necessary the roles and responsibilities of each Committee, Board, and Commission and post the information on the City's website. Assign actions from the Comprehensive Plan that can be addressed to achieve the community's goals and track their progress via annual reports to the City Council. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.2.3: Provide opportunities for the City Council to meet socially with the public as a group to promote understanding of community needs, pending City plans, and transparency. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.2.4: Use a variety of communication tools to make the community aware of the City's plans, opportunities to become involved, and to solicit feedback. Ensure that the City's website is updated regularly and that minutes from City Council, committee, and commission meetings on the City website are posted in a timely manner. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.2.5: Partner with Teller County organizations and agencies to explore ways to offer interactive Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps that will enable businesses and citizens to access and transact with the City quickly and reliably. (3-5 years)

Sustainable City Action 2.2.6: Ask the community for input on ways to diversify the City's revenue sources and ensure that the community's finances are stable when the area reaches build-out in 30 to 50 years. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Objective 2.3: Increase public participation and volunteerism.

Sustainable City Action 2.3.1: Proactively seek public input and respond to comments by promoting opportunities to join committees and commissions, to volunteer for community events,

and to seek comments on the City budget and priorities. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.3.2: Conduct focused outreach efforts to encourage all members of the community to participate in City activities. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.3.3: Continue to encourage City staff, and Committee, Board, and Council members to participate in community and volunteer activities. (Ongoing)

Sustainable City Action 2.3.4: Continue to invite civic, non-profit, and neighborhood groups to assist with the planning and implementation of appropriate City projects once they are identified. (Ongoing, 1-2 years)

Civic Sustainability Goal 3: Promote civic sustainability by the Woodland Park City Management staff and City Council.

Civic Objective 1.1: Make progress toward the civic sustainability goal, as reflected in positive newspaper coverage and civic social media platforms.

Civic Action 1.1.1: Continue to Offer the Woodland Park Citizen Academy. Encourage all citizens, particularly those running for office, to participate. (Ongoing)

Civic Action 1.1.2: Add a Public Civility module into the Woodland Park Citizen Academy. (Ongoing)

Civic Action 1.1.3: Develop a Woodland Park Public Relations Campaign to support civic sustainability. (1-2 year)

Civic Action 1.1.4: Encourage voter registration and voter participation in local elections. (1-2 year)

Sustainable Environment Goal 1: Enhance the health and livability of the Woodland Park natural and human environments.

Sustainable Environment Objective 1.1: Recommend that development minimizes its impact on the natural environment and creates a quality human environment through sustainable design and practices.

Sustainable Environment Action 1.1.1: Require that new development proposals comply with the City's design standard architectural themes. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Action 1.1.2: Continue to recommend that new development proposals identify natural resources on the site and demonstrate how they are integrated into the overall design for the project. Encourage new development proposals to conserve existing wildlife species and habitats. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Action 1.1.3: Continue to require that new development dedicates appropriately located open space, parks, and sidewalk/trail connections. (Ongoing)

- Recommend that new development integrates natural areas and native landscaping within the development.
- Establish visual connections and integrate natural features and systems within developed areas of the community that are also connected to surrounding natural features and open space areas.
- Provide pedestrian access to natural areas throughout the community.
- Work cooperatively with existing property owners to obtain easements in existing platted and/or developed areas where these linkages do not exist.

Sustainable Environment Action 1.1.4: Consider pursuing energy efficient and sustainable certifications for new public buildings whenever feasible. If certification

is not financially or physically viable, pursue energy efficiency in building standards when possible while designing and constructing civic buildings. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Action 1.1.5: Publicly recognize developers who are good stewards of the environment. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Objective 1.2: Reduce energy, water, and resource consumption.

Sustainable Environment Action 1.2.1: Encourage energy-efficient technology and the use of renewable energy. Modify building codes to encourage these desired results. (3-5 years)

Sustainable Environment Action 1.2.2: Encourage businesses and residents to use recycled materials, renewable products, and to recycle waste whenever possible to reduce per capita residential solid waste delivered to landfills. In addition, the City should inform residents on how to recycle hard-to-recycle materials as well as day-to-day items. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Action 1.2.3: Conserve water and improve the energy-efficiency of City facilities. Seek ways to continue recycling whenever possible. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Objective 1.3: Promote water conservation and the reuse of water and protect water quality.

Sustainable Environment Action 1.3.1: Use recycled and/or non-potable water for street-sweeping, landscaping, and irrigation, where appropriate, and look for ways to expand the usage of greywater. (6+ years)

Sustainable Environment Action 1.3.2: Encourage the use of low water and xeriscape landscaping and water-efficient appliances and fixtures to reduce overall water consumption. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Goal 2: *Emphasize the importance of becoming a more environmentally sustainable community.*

Sustainable Environment Objective 2.1: Create opportunities for community members to learn about and participate in efforts that promote environmental sustainability and encourage environmental stewardship.

Sustainable Environment Action 2.1.1: Create a page on the City’s website that links users to information about environmental sustainability, participation in community efforts, and how they can personally contribute and practice environmental stewardship, in partnership with local non-profits organizations. (Ongoing)

Sustainable Environment Action 2.1.2: Use posted or virtual interpretive signage in civic and historic designated spaces to describe natural and cultural resources in the community and to teach people how to conserve and support these resources. (Ongoing)

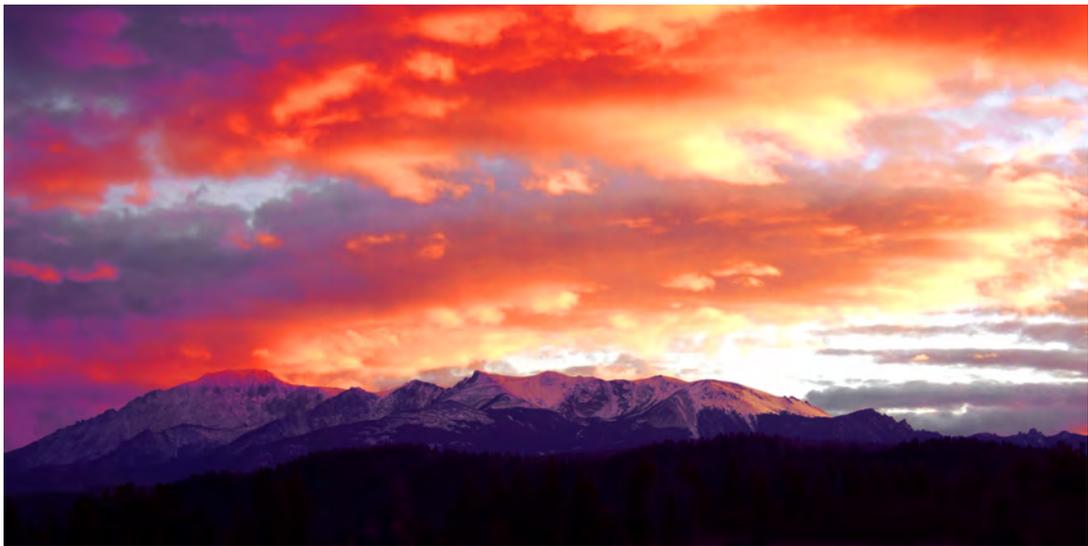
Sustainable Environment Action 2.1.3: Encourage neighborhoods to trim, thin, and plant trees following healthy forest principles and wildfire mitigation practices. (1-2 years)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- City of Woodland Comprehensive Plan, 2010
- Woodland Park Municipal Code



Photo by Kierstyn Peterson







Parks, Trails, and Open Space

Vision: *Preserve and enhance a responsive and balanced system of parks, trails, open space and recreational activities which enhance healthy lifestyles and facilitate a vibrant, connected community and enriched quality of life.*



BACKGROUND

Many residents live in Woodland Park for access to natural areas and the incredible scenery. The majority of the City has a view of the Pikes Peak ridgeline. In addition to the extensive existing trails, there are plans for several other sidewalk and trail improvement projects in Woodland Park, as well as planned additions to regional connectors. The City needs to continue providing access to parks, trails, and open space that offer healthy options for residents to enjoy.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Currently, the City's Parks and Recreation Department receives funding from five sources:

- Programming fees and fund raisers budgeted in the Culture and Recreation Fund;
- General Fund contribution towards operation and maintenance;
- The Conservation Trust Fund or Colorado Lottery proceeds;
- Development fees generated by new subdivision and building permits for dwelling units; and
- A variety of grants available for programming and parks development.

Woodland Park has a diverse inventory of parks and recreation, included are mini parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, school parks, sports complexes, special use areas, open space or natural areas, greenways, private parks, and recreation facilities. Each park type, or group of types, has a target of level of service established by the City, as represented in the table below. The cost and land designation for new parks can be difficult, but one option is to develop public/private park partnerships that use HOA or metropolitan district funds to help support development and/or maintenance. While the City is currently deficient in the number of acres of developed parkland to meet the desired level of service, there is an abundance of open space and National Forest land in the area that provides recreation opportunities and scenic value.

Table 4. Park Type and Target Level of Service

Park Type	Target Level of Service
Neighborhood and Mini Park	2.5 acres per 1,000 people (20 acres per 8,000 people)
Community Park	7.5 acres per 1,000 people (60 acres per 8,000 people)
Sports Complex	7.5 acres per 1,000 people (60 acres per 8,000 people)

City of Woodland Park Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan Updated and Approved November 2018

OPEN SPACE

Natural areas are lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, unique landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetic buffering. Open space, natural areas, and greenways are determined not on a basis of standards, but on the need for preservation of environmentally sensitive areas and opportunities for trail corridors. Many of the current open space areas are forest

or tall grassland. Because of their natural vegetation, they are prone to wildfire without regular mitigation and require a designated maintenance team.

The map on the following page shows existing parks identified in the subsequent table and the parcels within a ten minute walk of those facilities.

TRAILS

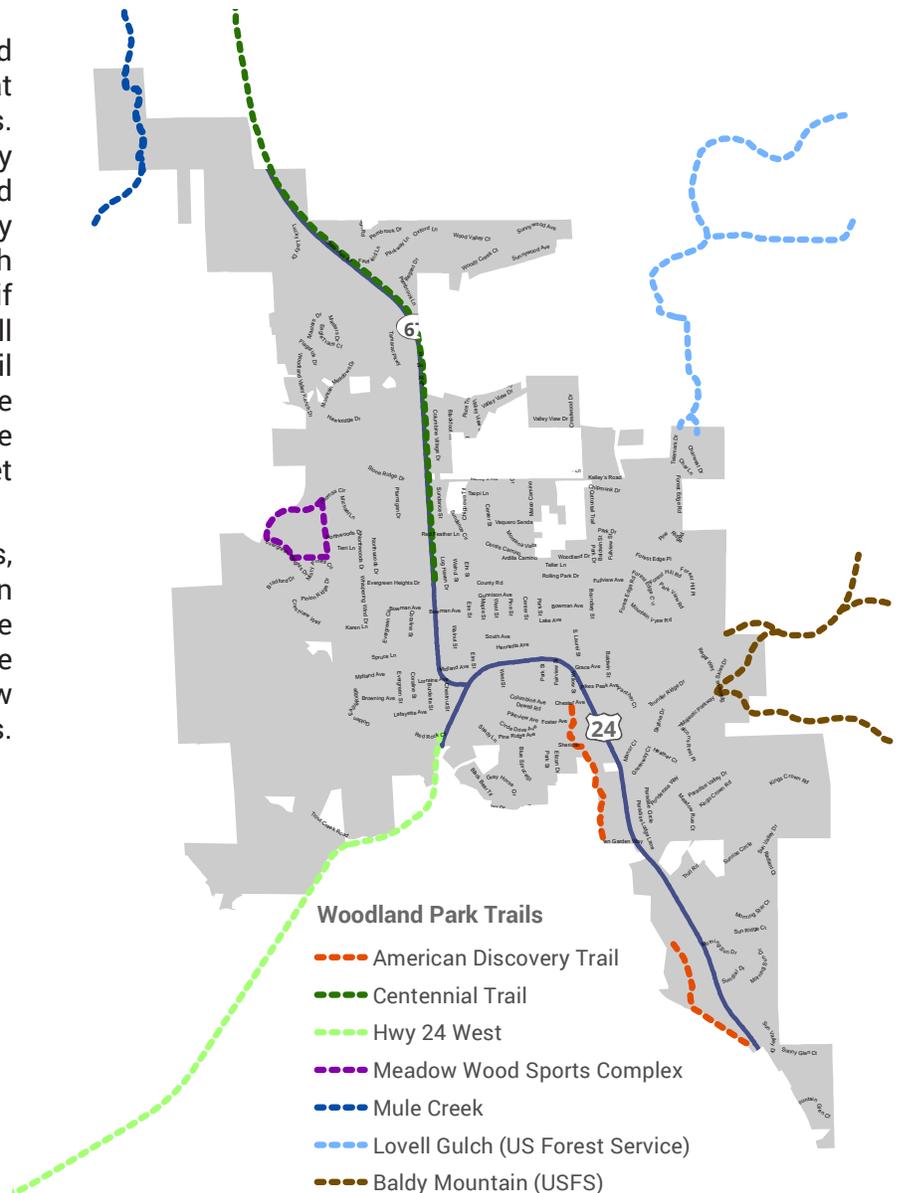
According to questionnaire feedback, 55 percent of respondents use a trail every week and 27 percent use a trail every day. Woodland Park residents love to use trails to bike, hike, view wildlife, and be outdoors, all of which contribute to their high quality of life. Woodland Park has approximately 19 miles of existing trails and 17 miles of planned trails. Community feedback highlighted a need to focus on completing new trails and connecting existing trails.

The Ute Pass Trail has several unconnected segments from Manitou Springs to Woodland Park. This trail has a moderate amount of use, but once it is complete, it will be a major attraction for the region.

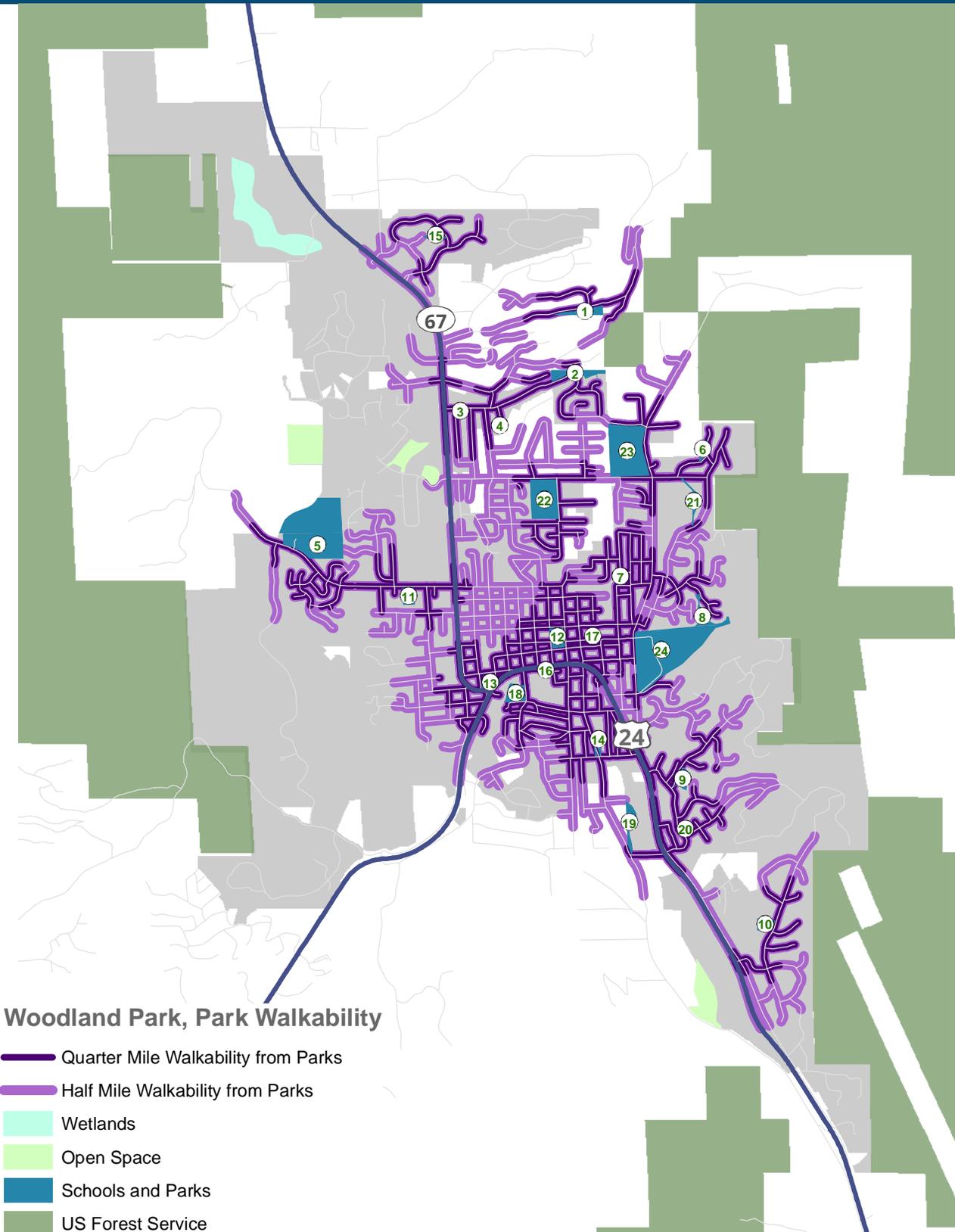
Another feature that community members desire is a “Ring the Park” trail that would provide trail connectivity around the perimeter of Woodland Park. This would connect every trail system that leads from inside Woodland Park to the neighboring U.S. Forest Service trail network. Connections to the U.S. Forest Service trail network provide an important recreation opportunity to the community.

There are numerous formal and informal trail connections that are used frequently by residents. If formally recognized, they could be extended to marked trailheads and enjoyed by residents and visitors as a much larger trail system. However, if this network is established, it will be important to designate a trail maintenance team because the City and U.S. Forest Service are currently understaffed to meet maintenance needs.

Public support for parks, trails, and open space became even more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic as people everywhere looked for new outdoor recreation opportunities.



PARK WALKABILITY MAP



The Park Walkability Map illustrates a .25 mile and .5 mile distance from all parks and schools in and around the City limits. Approximately 80 percent of the dwelling units in the City limits are within .5 miles of an existing park, open space, or school.

Table 5. Key for Park Locations in the Park Walkability Map

Key	Name	Type	Acres
1	Sunnywood Park	Teller County	3.427
2	Crestwood Park	Neighborhood	4.33
3	Peyton's Park	Open Space and Greenways	0.40
4	Park View Park	Neighborhood (undeveloped)	1.55
5	Meadow Wood Sports Complex	Sports Complex	42.85
6	Country Ridge	Parks (undeveloped)	2.08
7	Hilltop Park	Mini-Park (undeveloped)	0.640
8	Forest Edge	Neighborhood	4.0
9	Chimney Park	Neighborhood (undeveloped)	4.70
10	Sun Valley Park	Neighborhood (undeveloped)	6.22
11	Red Mountain Adventure Park	Neighborhood	3.32
12	Memorial Park	Community	3.606
13	Lions Park	Specialty	0.80
14	Cavalier Park	Neighborhood	1.50
15	Regency Park	Neighborhood	1.70
16	Bergstrom Park	Specialty	0.47
17	Loft Village	Open Space and Greenways	0.40
18	Kavanagh Field	Sports Complex	5.0
19	Fountain Creek Greenway	Open Space and Greenways	3.753
20	Paradise Bus Stop	Specialty	1.28
21	Forest Edge (Filing 4)	Open Space and Greenways	3.69
Total			87.77

Table 6. Key for School Locations in the Park Walkability Map

Key	Name	Type	Acres
22	Columbine Elementary School	School	14.507
23	Woodland Park Middle School	School	24.903
24	Gateway Elementary and High School	School	41.189
Total			80.60



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Goal 1: *Develop and enhance Woodland Park's sense of place and quality of life by continuing to enhance the City's parks, trails, and open space system.*

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Objective 1.1: Continue to plan for, construct, and maintain the City's parks, trails, and open space system in a manner that is consistent with community members' goals. Encourage the City to develop relationships and partner with the USFS to increase access to these lands.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action

1.1.1: Provide adequate security and maintenance of parks facilities. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action

1.1.2: Continue to implement the Woodland Park Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. Update the Master Plan no later than 2023 to ensure that the information from this Comprehensive Plan is incorporated. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.1.3:

Prioritize development and enhancement of parks, trails, and open space to meet the needs and desires of the citizens. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action

1.1.4: Continue to improve pedestrian and bicycle accessibility and community connections by constructing new trails, improving parking at trailheads, and making connections to existing multi-use trails and community destinations such as parks, neighborhoods, and downtown. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action

1.1.5: Develop and implement a system of metrics to evaluate and track the effectiveness and level of service for parks, trails, and recreation programs. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action

1.1.6: Continue to improve parks, trails,

facilities, and open space maintenance and explore maintenance techniques that could reduce costs without compromising quality. Focus on efficiencies that would result in revenue generation. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Objective 1.2: Foster partnerships to fund, develop, and promote the City's parks, trails, recreation, and open space system.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action

1.2.1: Optimize the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Woodland Park RE-2 School District to expand the joint use of facilities and to meet the community's recreational programming needs. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.2.2:

Explore ways to partner with nonprofit organizations to support the Parks and Recreation Department staff. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action

1.2.3: Build dynamic relationships and continue to partner with organizations to design and fund parks, trails, and open space preservation. (1-2 years)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.2.4:

Work with Woodland Park Re-2 School District and other educational institutions, as well as the Colorado Department of Transportation and its Safe Routes to Schools program and Enhancements Program to establish a safe, attractive, and interconnected trail system that enables people, especially school children, to safely bike or walk to schools, parks, downtown, and other neighborhoods. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.2.5: Partner with organizations to include educational opportunities in parks, trails, and open space areas. (3-5 years)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.2.6: Explore ways to create organizations and partnerships to help improve and maintain parks, trails, and public spaces. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Objective 1.3: Involve the community when developing plans for major parks, trails, and recreational facilities.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.3.1: Seek to attract, facilitate, and host major events in a fiscally responsible manner. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Objective 1.4: Communicate the availability, location, and descriptions of local and regional parks, trails, and open space in a manner that promotes the Woodland Park brand. Continue to foster a sense of pride and ownership for Woodland Park's parks, trails, and open space.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.4.1: Post parks, trails, and recreational opportunities on the website (e.g., map of parks and trails, list of fishing opportunities, sledding hills, OHV trails, and snowshoeing trails). Contact appropriate agencies so that their facilities can be included. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.4.2: Continue to foster partnerships to advertise leisure and recreation opportunities in the area. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.4.3: Include the community logo in park, trail, and open space signage, as well as other relevant information such as rules and hours of operation. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Objective 1.5: Promote recycling, reduce natural resource consumption, and limit waste production in the City's parks, trails, and open space system.

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.5.1: Evaluate the feasibility of including recycling receptacles in parks and along trails. (Ongoing)

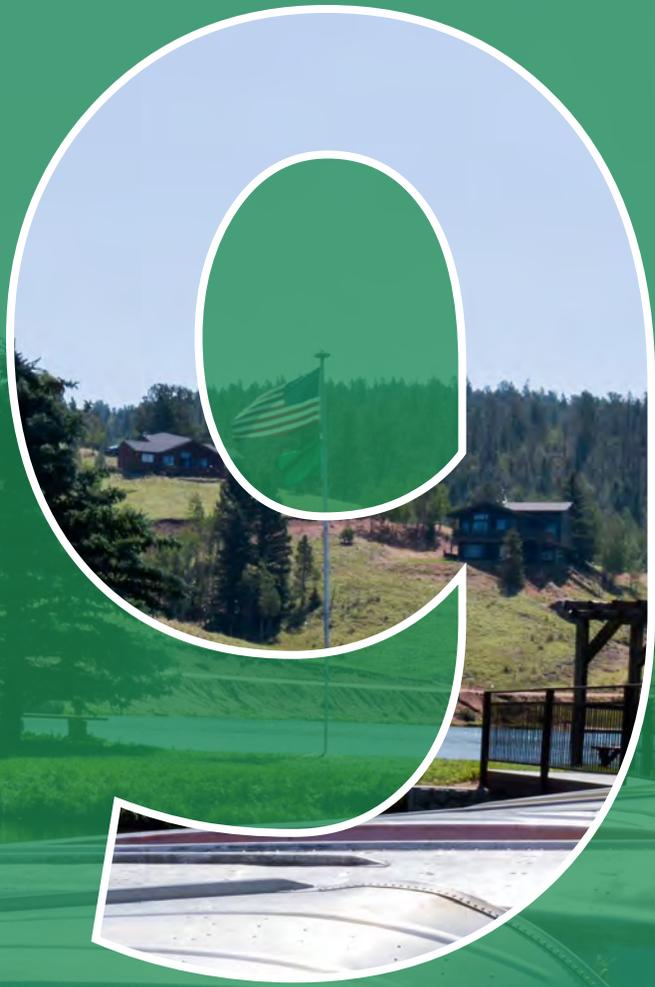
Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.5.2: Review the fertilizers and pesticides that are used on the properties and examine ways to reduce chemical use and to use natural products. (Ongoing)

Parks, Trails, and Open Space Action 1.5.3: Regularly evaluate existing irrigation sprinkler systems to ensure they are operating efficiently. Strive to equip sprinklers with rain shut-off devices and soil moisture sensors to minimize over-watering. (Ongoing)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan, 2018
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010





Water and Wastewater

Vision: *Provide reliable utility services to the community while planning responsibly for the future and identifying efficiencies in resources uses.*



BACKGROUND

The City of Woodland Park realizes that its water supply is a valuable and limited resource. Based on the total water supply of 1,475 acre feet/year the City has planned for a population of 12,600 at buildout using a water factor of 0.117 acre feet per capita per year. Due to conservation and water-wise initiatives such as low flow water fixtures, the City has added 400 units to the build-out numbers which allows the community population to grow to 13,600.

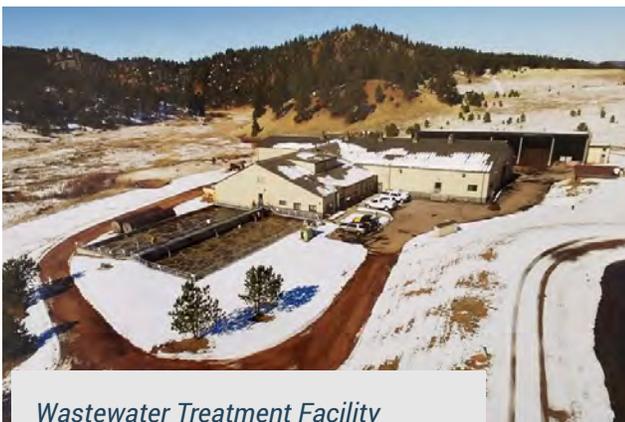
Development and land use are closely tied with water supply availability to ensure that responsible development maintains a balance with the available water resources. New residential water taps are limited per year to manage the demand for water. Woodland Park's Tap management program began in 1997. The City's water supply comes from local water wells, springs, and streams (67 percent) and from shares in canal and reservoir companies (33 percent). The water service area includes the entire City limits and approximately 250 households outside the City limits. In 2018, approximately 9,087 people were being served, an increase of approximately 600 people. The City's water system also serves 273 commercial customers.

Based on community feedback, limited water resources are understood and respected as a part of western high elevation living. There is strong support for managing growth and land

uses with respect to water supply limitations, as well as support for efficiency and smart planning to protect the limited resource. Opportunities to reuse and store additional water in the future such as a new reservoir and using non-potable water on the golf course are being pursued.

The City's existing wastewater treatment plant has been in service since September, 1992, with a new expansion in 2018. The average daily influent flow to the treatment plant for 2020 was 0.623 million gallons per day. The wastewater treatment plant is designed to serve a total population of 14,100. The service area includes the City limits except for approximately 200 water customers in the southeast area of the City that have septic systems. The City also provides wastewater service to the Teller County Water and Sanitation District Number 1 and several more City customers with outside use agreements. All City facilities have back-up generators to provide continuation of service in the event of an electrical blackout.

Water and wastewater utility management are operated under the City Public Works Department within the City government, unlike other utilities that are outside entities that serve the City.

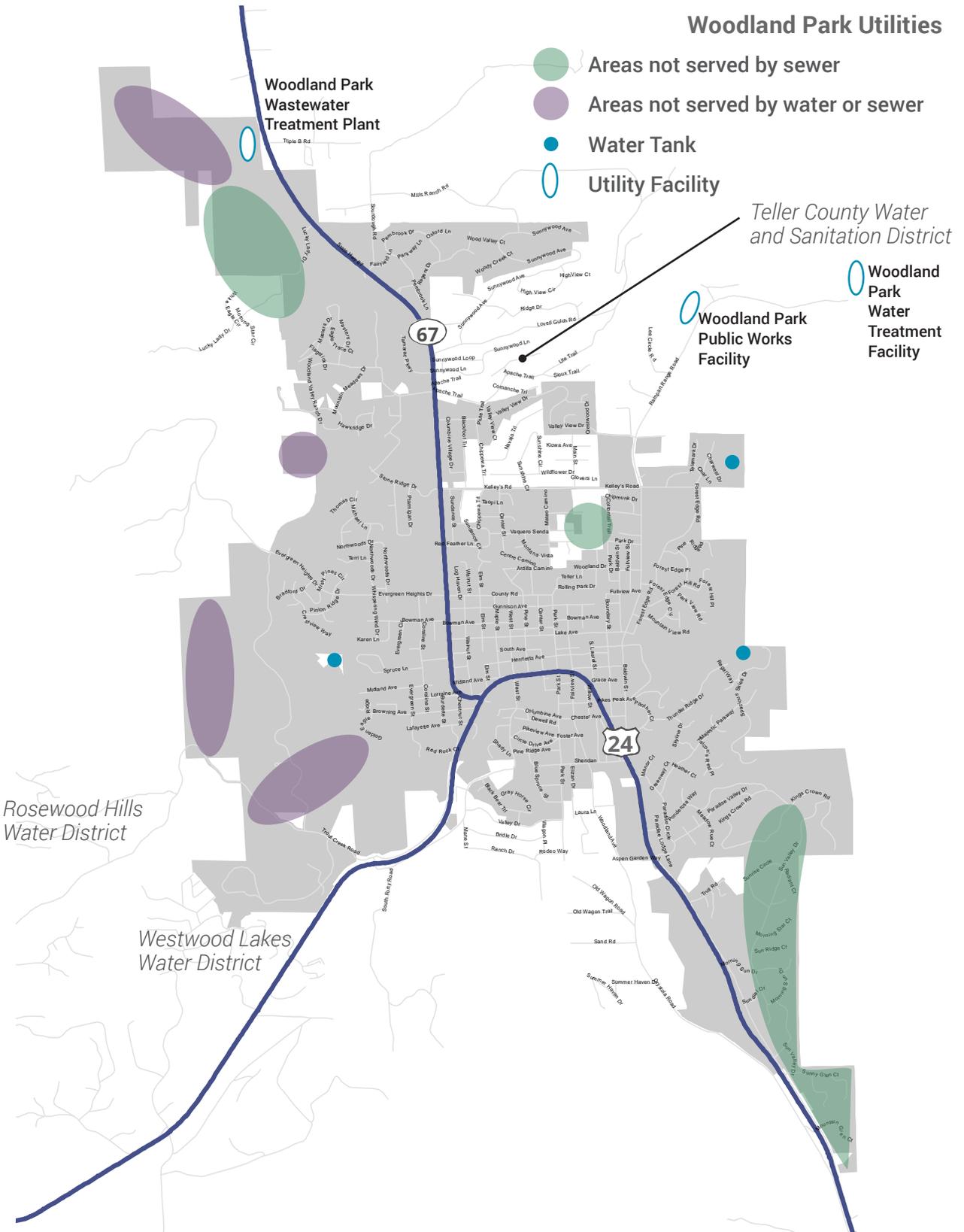


Wastewater Treatment Facility

OTHER UTILITY PROVIDERS

- CORE Electric Cooperative (formerly IREA)
- Peak Internet which provides a fiber optic network to areas within the City
- Black Hills Colorado Gas

Woodland Park Utilities



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Water Goal 1: *Provide a safe, reliable, and aesthetically pleasing (taste, odor, clarity) water supply in a cost effective, environmentally sound manner.*

Water Objective 1.1: Deliver superior service to the City's water customers in the everyday operation of the City's water system.

Water Action 1.1.1: Maintain storage volumes, water pressures, and operational fire hydrants to provide adequate fire fighting capability throughout the City's water service area. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.1.2: Strive to continually improve customer relations in all facets of water system operation, including billing, records, utility availability, field services, design and installation, new technology, demand, and usage. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.1.3: Make cost-conscious, life-cycle decisions regarding daily operation and maintenance expenditures. (Ongoing)

Water Objective 1.2: Maintain appropriate rates and fees for the City's water system operations.

Water Action 1.2.1: Continue to reconcile the Water Tap Management Plan, as well as rates and tap fees on an annual basis to assess water system revenues and expenditures on a short- and long-term basis. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.2.2: Review sources of capital and project debt service revenues annually to help ensure the cost of capital improvements to the water system are fairly divided between existing and new customers, including an analysis of planned projects. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.2.3: Establish rates, budgets, debt reserves, and operating reserves to withstand economic recessions. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.2.4: Commission a rate study to compare the City to

other communities and publish the results for users. (1-2 Years)

Water Objective 1.3: Improve environmental sensitivity and safety for the City's water system.

Water Action 1.3.1: Incorporate energy saving and sustainable technologies into operations and maintenance decisions and system improvements whenever feasible, such as solar monitoring on well sites without power. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.3.2: Incorporate improved security measures to protect the water system from vandalism and terrorism. Annually review available technologies and instances of vandalism in order to learn if any corresponding actions are required. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.3.3: Develop and implement a Source Water Protection Plan for Woodland Park, with public input and a strong educational component with assistance from the Colorado Rural Water Association. (Ongoing, 1-2 years)

Water Action 1.3.4: Complete implementation of the City's Cross Connection Control Program on an annual basis. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.3.5: Collaborate with City and County Departments, the Fire Department, the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, and the Teller County Wildfire Council to implement the Community Wildfire Protection Plan as it relates to utility infrastructure. (Ongoing)

Water Action 1.3.6: Support erosion control and stormwater management policies and projects that help protect the City's water sources and the downstream sources for other communities. (Ongoing)

Water Goal 2: Identify and recognize the City's limited water resources and supply resources to make water available to accommodate the City's existing population and to serve potential future growth and development, as well as development of public, institutional, commercial, industrial, and residential properties including market rate, attainable and community-residential housing.

Water Objective 2.1: Continue to ensure that the City's water system has adequate capacity and infrastructure available to accommodate new development and re-development in compliance with the City's current planned full build-out population of 13,600 (water service population of 12,600) without incurring unaffordable costs for additional water development.

Water Action 2.1.1: Continue to administer and implement the approved City Water Tap Management Plan to provide the fair and equitable management and processing of new water taps. (1-2 years)

Water Action 2.1.2: Provide informed land use and growth decisions, while balancing both the City's short- and long-term water demand with the limited available water supply Concurrently, define and plan for acquisition of future water. (1-2 years)

Water Action 2.1.3: Plan future land uses in conjunction with the Awareness Plan (Action 2.1.6). In the event that a proposed land use change impacts water resource planning, the Utilities staff will recommend solutions to address the impact. (Ongoing)

Water Action 2.1.4: Identify and define milestones to identify points in time, capacity, and/or infrastructure where additional resources will be required to meet the committed water demands. (1-2 years)

Water Action 2.1.5: Implement Woodland Park's tap management plan to manage and balance development considerations that provides for incremental growth to full build-out population of 13,600. (ongoing)

Water Action 2.1.6: Prepare a Limited Water Supply and Full Build-Out Potential Awareness Plan with the City Planning

Commission and Utilities Advisory Committee to identify and assess how Woodland Park will maintain water service for existing and future needs and provide recommendations to the City Council. (1-2 years)

Water Action 2.1.7: Report annually to City Council on water resources available for acquisition; the City's financial capability to make such acquisitions; and recommendations for appropriate acquisitions. (Ongoing)

Water Action 2.1.8: Document and maintain service policies for water and wastewater in conjunction with the City's annexation policy. These policies should minimize sprawl by discouraging the extension of water and sewer utilities outside the current City limits. (Ongoing)

Water Action 2.1.9: Continue to monitor population and population per household to understand water use trends. (Ongoing)

Water Objective 2.2: Pursue opportunities to enhance water conservation and improve the efficiency of water use, such as the EPA Water Sense program.

Water Action 2.2.1: Implement, encourage, and require technology improvements to conserve water, improve efficiencies, and enhance water operations and maintenance programs. (Ongoing)

Water Action 2.2.2: Continue to enhance the City's Water Conservation Plan and prepare a Drought Mitigation Plan to help the community prepare for droughts and more efficiently use the City's water resources. (Ongoing)

Water Action 2.2.3: Increase data collection and analysis of water use in the community to better quantify uses, identify losses, and understand trends in usage. Determine water use within useful subcategories of single family, multi-family, commercial, and municipal use categories. Further define irrigation use because of its discretionary nature and its high impact on augmentation requirements. (Ongoing, 1-2 years)

Water Action 2.2.4: Continue to manage and pursue increased efficiency in the water distribution and delivery system by identifying and eliminating leaks in water mains and service lines, and by increasing meter accuracy in homes and businesses. Monitor meters to understand what is flowing out of the systems. (Ongoing)

Water Action 2.2.5: Encourage the use of artificial turf for sports fields and other large areas currently using large quantities of irrigation water. Continue to promote natural landscapes and xeriscape in conjunction with low water or non-irrigated grasses. (Ongoing)

Water Goal 3: Strengthen and expand the City's water resources within the City's financial capabilities.

Water Objective 3.1: Improve the City's ability to make appropriate investment decisions for its water resources.

Water Action 3.1.1: Continue an education program to improve understanding and awareness of the costs, complexities, and challenges involved in strengthening and expanding the City's water resources. (Ongoing)

Water Objective 3.2: Implement projects that will strengthen and/or expand the City's water resources and are appropriate for the community's growth plans in compliance with

Woodland Park's total potential population and the planned full build-out water service capacity of 13,600 people.

Water Action 3.2.1: At the earliest appropriate time, pursue the amendment of the Conveyance Agreement with Colorado Springs Utilities to increase annual conveyance of augmentation water from 500 acre-feet per year to 625 acre-feet per year. (Ongoing, 3-5 years)

Water Action 3.2.2: Complete necessary feasibility studies and formalize necessary agreements to build additional water storage reservoirs near Woodland Park and increase augmentation water storage from a current capacity of 55 acre-feet to a total of 350 to 600 acre-feet. (Ongoing)

Water Action 3.2.3: Acquire additional shares in the Twin Lakes Reservoir Company and other quality water sources as they become available. (Ongoing)

Water Objective 3.3: Evaluate other feasible water resources, such as a reservoir, and take appropriate action to preserve the City's ability to pursue them.

Water Action 3.3.1: Invest selectively in feasibility studies for water projects that have significant potential for the City. Such projects might include a deep well into an untapped aquifer or a new well field at a remote location. (3-5 years)

Water Action 3.3.2: Appropriate water in a cost-effective manner, apply for water rights, and take other low cost, but meaningful actions to legally pre-position the City to pursue potentially attractive water resources. (Ongoing)

Water Action 3.3.3: Continue to identify and evaluate any potential water resources, projects, partnerships, and other opportunities that could strengthen or expand the City's water resources in a cost-effective manner. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Goal 1: *Provide high quality service to reliably collect and optimally treat wastewater in a fiscally and environmentally responsible manner.*

Wastewater Objective 1.1: Provide the highest quality wastewater collection and treatment possible on a daily basis.

Wastewater Action 1.1.1: Provide comprehensive, timely preventive maintenance so that equipment failures, which could cause loss of plant performance are minimized. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Action 1.1.2: Optimize wastewater plant process control on a daily basis so that the best possible treatment is achieved from the City's wastewater treatment plant. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Action 1.1.3: Continue to explore ways to improve the energy efficiency of the wastewater treatment plant and pump stations. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Action 1.1.4: Evaluate the potential lift station system locations that would benefit from the installation of intermediate lift stations as they relate to the entire system. (1-2 years)

Wastewater Objective 1.2: Provide uninterrupted wastewater collection and treatment service to meet the needs of the community.

Wastewater Action 1.2.1: Provide timely preventive maintenance, repairs, replacements, and infiltration control within the wastewater collection system to minimize backups, overflows, or failures. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Objective 1.3: Project expenditures and revenues necessary to fund operations, maintenance, and infrastructure improvements

to meet existing and forecasted wastewater treatment needs.

Wastewater Action 1.3.1: Annually evaluate and report the wastewater operations and maintenance expenditures and revenues. (Ongoing)

- Evaluate and reduce expenses as possible.
- Evaluate and establish appropriate operation and maintenance rates.
- Identify, analyze, and recommend alternatives for improving receiving stream water quality, which would reduce energy consumption.

Wastewater Action 1.3.2: Develop a Wastewater System Capital Improvement Plan. The plan should:

- Evaluate the future land use plan and propose a strategy for meeting future wastewater treatment capacity demands;
- Develop and maintain an asset management program that will provide capital rehabilitation and replacement schedules and costs;
- Establish a reserve fund for periods of reduced growth or other economic downturn;
- Evaluate and establish capital replacement fees to fund existing customers' share of capital costs;
- Evaluate and establish new development impact fees to fund new customers' share of capital costs; and
- Evaluate financing options to fund capital improvements. (Ongoing, 1-2 years)

Wastewater Objective 1.4: Reduce natural resource consumption, promote reuse, improve safety, and promote responsible sanitary sewer waste disposal.

Wastewater Action 1.4.1: Maximize the reuse of wastewater on the golf course and potentially on other turf in the City. (3-5 years)

Wastewater Action 1.4.2: Maximize the reuse of biosolids in composting within the community to create mulch for sale to commercial and private parties. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Action 1.4.3: Investigate ways to improve the safety of plant workers by exploring methods to minimize the use of hazardous chemicals and by replacing existing equipment with safer equipment as appropriate. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Action 1.4.4: Educate water customers, neighboring residents, and businesses about the potential harmful effects of improper use or disposal of

pesticides, herbicides, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals through efficient media publicity. (Ongoing)

Wastewater Objective 1.5: Evaluate the impact of the wastewater treatment plant and infrastructure projects on surrounding neighborhoods.

Wastewater Action 1.5.1: Enhance the visual appearance of the plant site by landscaping and buffering the site as part of the wastewater treatment plant expansion. (3-5 years, ongoing)

Wastewater Action 1.5.2: Wherever feasible, incorporate a trail connection into utility projects (e.g., on sewer easements). (Ongoing)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Woodland Park Municipal Code
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010
- Greater Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2017
- Woodland Park Water Development Plan
- City of Woodland Park Website, 2021

WATER IN OTHER CHAPTERS

Water resources direct a lot of decisions and actions that are discussed in other chapters.

Ch. 1: Introduction- Infrastructure needs and history of planning in Woodland Park.

Ch. 2: Land Use and Growth- resource limitations and growth management.

Ch. 3: Housing - resource limitations and water taps.

Ch. 6: Economic Development and Tourism - recreational constraints and opportunities.

Ch. 7: Sustainability - water conservation

Ch. 10: Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Resiliency - flooding, drought, resiliency for resources.

Ch. 11: Transportation and Drainage- flooding and water quality.



Photo by Kierstyn Peterson





Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Resiliency

Vision: *Work with different groups in the City and the region to provide a safe environment for residents and visitors, now and in the future.*



BACKGROUND

Public safety involves the prevention of, and protection from, events that could threaten the safety of the public from significant danger, injury/harm, or damage, such as crimes or disasters (natural or human-caused). Frontline protection in Woodland Park is provided by the core emergency services of the Woodland Park Police Department, Ute Pass Regional Hospital and Ambulance District (UPRHAD), the Teller County Office of Emergency Management, and the Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District (NETCO). There were 30,450 police, fire, and EMS calls in 2020, an increase of about 10,000 calls from 2010. The Police Department strives to maintain safe places and events for all ages. In public outreach efforts, residents noted that Woodland Park is an extremely safe community and they feel that the Police Department does an excellent job.

The public agrees with the County Hazard Mitigation Plan report, which identifies wildland fire as the biggest threat to health and safety in Woodland Park and surrounding areas. Mapping from the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal shows that due to dry conditions, dense forest canopy, and steep or hard to access slopes, the majority of Woodland Park is in

the high to highest risk area for wildland fire. During the Waldo Canyon Fire of 2012, many residents were evacuated. All have witnessed other major Colorado wildfires in the years since. The Northeast Teller Fire Protection District is partnering with the City and plans to practice evacuation of certain neighborhoods to understand the timing of evacuation and to identify issues that could occur. Additionally, approximately 83 percent of questionnaire respondents indicated that they are signed up for either the Nixle, Everbridge, or other emergency management notification systems. Refer to Appendix for questionnaire results.

Other natural disasters which warrant potential programs for preparation include thunderstorms, severe winter weather, and floods. The impacts of natural disasters tend to disproportionately impact elderly, disabled, and other vulnerable populations to a greater degree and require additional preparation. Domestic emergency management provides services including police, fire, animal control, and ambulance services.



Woodland Medical Center

Resiliency is “the ability of communities to rebound, positively adapt to, or thrive amidst changing conditions or challenges – including human-caused and natural disasters – and to maintain quality of life, healthy growth, durable systems, economic vitality, and conservation of resources for present and future generations” (Colorado House Bill 18-1394). To be resilient, a community must inventory assets and identify scenarios and weaknesses, then plan to address those weaknesses either by reinforcement and redundancy or by identifying backup options. Pre-planning helps to maintain community health, the economy, and the connections. The Federal Emergency Management Agency noted in 2018 that natural hazard mitigation saves \$6 for every \$1 spent on average for all disasters, \$4 for every 1\$ spent on fires, and \$5 for every 1\$ spent on floods because preparation can help communities regain normalcy more quickly and quality development is more likely to outlast hazard impacts.



Waldo Canyon Fire

TELLER COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN RISK ASSESSMENT

Hazard Rank	Teller County	Woodland Park
1	Wildfire	Wildfire
2	Thunderstorms/ High Winds/Hail	Thunderstorms/ High Winds/Hail
3	Severe Winter Weather	Severe Winter Weather
4	Drought & Extreme Temperatures	Flood
5	Landslide	Drought & Extreme Temperatures
6	Earthquake	Dam Failure
7	Hazardous Materials	Hazardous Materials
8	Flood	Subsidence/ Soil Erosion
9	Subsidence/ Soil Erosion	Earthquake
10	Tornado	Landslide
11	Dam Failure	Tornado

The table of hazard risk assessments shows high, medium, and low threats for Teller County. Wildfire is the greatest threat to every community in this area. Other natural disasters that warrant preparation include thunderstorms, severe winter weather, and floods. Domestic emergency management provides services including police, fire, animal control, and ambulance services.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Public Safety and Emergency Management Goal 1: *Continue to provide excellent public safety and emergency services.*

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Objective 1.1: Continue fostering partnerships and improving the City's technology to improve police services and to educate the community about crime trends, personal safety, neighborhood crime prevention, response strategies, emergency management programs, and the role of law enforcement in the community.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.1.1: Continue police, fire, and/or emergency response participation in diverse types of community meetings to build community relations and coordinate resources. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.1.2: Regularly update Woodland Park Police Department (WPPD's) webpage and Facebook page to inform the public about what WPPD is doing (e.g., community programs, recent grant awards received, the implementation of new technologies, etc.) and to provide safety tips. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.1.3: Continue to partner with the Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District to support respective services, provide cross-training, and pursue funding opportunities. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.1.4: Continue efforts with multi-media companies to send emergency warnings and information about community events to community members. Perform routine testing of the emergency notification systems. Work with the School District, the Chamber of Commerce, and other appropriate groups

to encourage people to register to receive emergency notifications. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.1.5: Continue to partner with the Department of Homeland Security, the State of Colorado, and the local Emergency Management Team to prepare for natural disasters, pandemics, and other large-scale crises. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.1.6: Improve the coordination capability with other City departments, local/state governments, and community groups for emergency planning, through liaison(s). The liaison(s) will maintain the Woodland Park Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Continuity of Operations Plan. The liaison(s) will also ensure implementation of Incident Command System (ICS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS) for field operations. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency

Management Action 1.1.7: Continue to implement the Mental Assessment Program (MAP). (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Objective 1.2: Plan the expansion of law enforcement protection to correlate with changes in the City's needs.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.2.1: Continue to monitor police activity as the Woodland Park population and police service needs increase to maintain current and/or improve levels of police protection and traffic safety. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.2.2: Maintain and expand specialized training opportunities for law enforcement officials relating to new technologies and/or programs designed to respond to demographic shifts or socio-economic changes. Continue ongoing training to maintain optimum police services. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency

Management Action 1.2.3: Maintain an effective communication network with Teller County, State, and Federal law enforcement officials. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.2.4: Continue to coordinate with Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District and the Ute Pass Regional Ambulance District and other appropriate entities to consider mutually effective deployment of resources in the context of appropriate interagency activity. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management Objective 1.3: Build a community that is resistant to criminal activity through community involvement, crime prevention efforts, and encouraging young people to avoid drugs and alcohol, stay in school, contribute positively to society, and feel comfortable around the WPPD.

Public Safety and Emergency

Management Action 1.3.1: Encourage public-private partnerships to prevent crime, such as the Safe to Tell program, and increase community involvement in crime prevention. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency

Management Action 1.3.2: Work with local businesses to teach effective crime prevention tactics that keep fraud, theft, and robbery rates low. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency

Management Action 1.3.3: Contribute articles to local newspapers and other media on crime prevention and the

Woodland Park Police Department's crime prevention activities. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.3.4: Continue to participate actively in valuable youth programs, such as Teen Court. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 1.3.5: Continue to coordinate closely with the Woodland Park Re-2 School District, using School Resource Officers, to share information, provide insight on behavior issues, and assist with school security. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency

Management Action 1.3.6: Continue to have a visible role at school sporting events, scouting events, the Community Halloween Walk, Christmas Parade, and other community events. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management Goal 2: *Raise awareness of citizens to the risks of fire, promote fire preparedness, and facilitate fire mitigation in and around Woodland Park.*

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Objective 2.1: Identify opportunities to raise fire awareness and preparedness within the community.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 2.1.1: Establish an annual fire preparedness day in which the City participates. Encourage participation by local emergency services. Encourage citizens to register for emergency notifications. Distribute publications on evacuation preparation, fire and flood insurance, personal property mitigation, and slash removal programs. (1 year)



Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 2.1.2: Identify opportunities to coordinate City efforts and periodically review evacuation plans with the Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District, Teller County Sheriff’s Department, Teller County Office of Emergency Management, and other surrounding agencies to create the Woodland Park Community Wildfire Protection Plan to promote wildfire awareness and preparedness. (1-2 Years)

Public Safety and Emergency

Management Action 2.1.3: Implement the Greater Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and work with local partners to update the document.

Public Safety and Emergency Management Objective 2.2: Identify opportunities to increase fire mitigation.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 2.2.1: Continue to conduct and promote a mitigation program, coordinated by the Teller County Wildfire Council and/or other appropriate agencies, that provides homeowners with a free, voluntary, and confidential wildfire mitigation assessment of their property in order to improve the resiliency of structures within the City. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management Action 2.2.2: Conduct fire mitigation, as appropriate, on all City properties. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management Action 2.2.3: Identify a system to connect those who need help with property mitigation due to physical or financial challenges with contractors, volunteer groups, insurance agencies, or others that can provide assistance to them. (1-2 years)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 2.2.4: Coordinate and support Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District, U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Forest Service, Teller County Wildfire

Council, and others in forest mitigation for areas surrounding the City. (Ongoing)

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Objective 2.3: Protect tax funds allocated for Emergency Medical Services and Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District.

Public Safety and Emergency Management

Action 2.3.1: Encourage the City Council to protect future tax revenues earmarked for Emergency Medical Services and Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District from current and future Special District tax allocations. (Ongoing)

Resiliency Goal 3: *Create a community that is prepared for, and has the resiliency to recover from, emergency incidents utilizing the basic capabilities as recognized by the National Disaster Recovery Framework.*

Resiliency Objective 3.1: Maintain redundancy in communication systems.

Resiliency Action 3.1.1: Maintain redundancy in the radio systems with a UHF back-up to the 800 MHz systems or other appropriate systems. (Ongoing)

Resiliency Action 3.1.2: Ensure interoperability with all Teller County agencies, at the user level as well as the dispatch level. (Ongoing)

Resiliency Action 3.1.3: Ensure a backup plan for critical phone lines in the Police Department Dispatch Center (Public Safety Answering Point), in cooperation with El Paso / Teller County 911 services. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Objective 3.2: Develop redundancy in the local supply chain.

Resiliency Action 3.2.1: Identify and coordinate a critical supply plan between

local and County entities in the event of a supply chain impact. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Action 3.2.2: Maintain situational awareness of regional and national supply chain impacts and their potential impacts to local suppliers and the community. (Ongoing)

Resiliency Objective 3.3: Develop resistance for the City to cyberattack.

Resiliency Action 3.3.1: Develop a plan to increase the City's resistance to cyberattack with the City of Woodland Park Technical Support. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Action 3.3.2: Create a back-up system that will allow the computer systems to be restored to a pre-infection state. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Objective 3.4: Develop a plan for mental health support for community members in the event of a disaster.

Resiliency Action 3.4.1: Coordinate with Teller County Public Health and other identified resources to provide behavioral

health support to community members in the event of a disaster. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Action 3.4.2: Continue to implement the Mental Assessment Program (MAP) or other similar programs. (Ongoing)

Resiliency Objective 3.5: Create a utility delivery system that can withstand disaster.

Resiliency Action 3.5.1: Investigate and implement a manual back-up procedure for water processes. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Action 3.5.2: Investigate the cost of flexible pipe joints that would allow lines more flexibility during flood, landslide, and earthquake events. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Action 3.5.3: Encourage public and private utilities to provide for resiliency in their systems and report to the City periodically on their progress. (1-2 years)

Resiliency Action 3.5.4: Assess impacts to core City needs, such as housing, revenue, employees, roads, water, health, and safety from major events such as wildfire, economic recession, or global pandemic to identify opportunities to safeguard resources and recover quickly. (Ongoing)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Wildland-Urban-Interface Lessons Learned, 2010
- Wildland-Urban-Interface Lessons Learned, 2017
- Northeast Teller County Fire Protection District Master Plan Report, 2018
- Teller County Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2021
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010
- Greater Woodland Park Healthy Forest Initiative Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2017



Ute Pass Regional Paramedic Services





Transportation and Drainage

Vision: *Create a safe, accessible, and efficient transportation system, that accommodates automotive vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles, and micromobility and reduces through traffic from our downtown area with a planned reliever route. Provide a safe and efficient drainage system that protects property, facilities, and the environment.*



BACKGROUND

For many, summer transportation is the single biggest issue for Woodland Park. The main access to the mountains from the growing cities along the Front Range is on U.S. Highway 24 through downtown Woodland Park. This constant traffic is an issue for downtown retail shops, police and ambulance response times, and residents moving through town in the summer. According to the Colorado Department of Transportation, the number of average annual daily trips has not changed much from 2010 to 2020, (approximately 25,000 trips per day) but is likely to increase to 32,000 trips per day (an average of 7,000 daily trips increase), by 2040. Average Annual Daily Trips calculates the average for the day and the year, so while summer has a much higher traffic count, that increase is not reflected in the available data. The annual comparisons are displayed in the graph below. The City has prepared preliminary concepts for a bypass or reliever route that would move through traffic away from downtown and would allow Woodland Park to re-gain a comfortable, safe, vibrant City core year-round. The Colorado Department of Transportation recognizes that this is a priority for Woodland Park and has funds to partially support a study of route options in 2025.

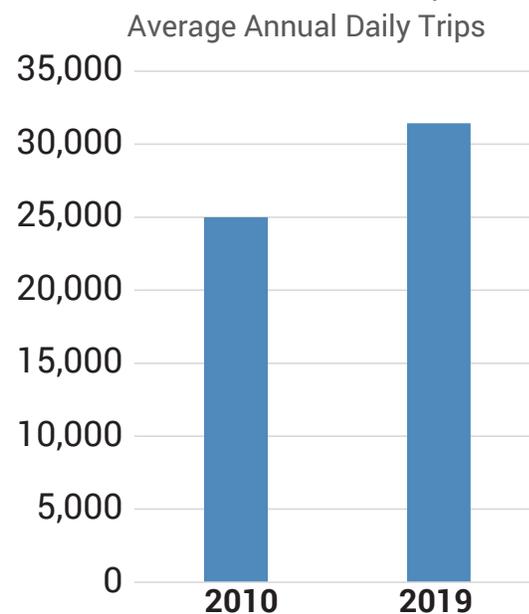
Highway 67, which traverses north to Deckers, provides an important role in the community by providing a third major gateway with commercial, recreation, and higher density housing land uses. The highway also provides an additional major access/ egress to allow for continued operations if Highway 24 is closed to construct a reliever route.

Community feedback was split on walkability and pedestrian connections. Many feel that, as a mountain community, residents should not expect sidewalks and urban pedestrian connections in every part of town. Others feel that walkable connections provide opportunities for people with different abilities to safely navigate in more locations. The City currently has approximately 10 miles of hard surface

pedestrian and bikeways with 10 additional miles planned. Street updates are moving toward Complete Street designs, especially in more populated areas.

Complete Streets are defined by the U.S. Department of Transportation as “streets designed and operated to enable safe use and support mobility for all users. Those include people of all ages and abilities, regardless of whether they are travelling as drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, or public transportation riders. The concept of Complete Streets encompasses many approaches to planning, designing, and operating roadways and rights-of-way with all users in mind to make the transportation network safer and more efficient.”

On page 92 is a graph of the 2019 census numbers for people commuting to work by type; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many are now finding that they can, and prefer to, work from home. The 2021 results in the last column of the graph include individuals who are not part of the workforce and should not be compared exactly to the census statistics. They are included to show the very recent trends. Also note that Woodland Park had a transit service that traveled over Ute Pass, but the service was discontinued due to low ridership numbers.



Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) AADT 2020

TRANSPORTATION MAP

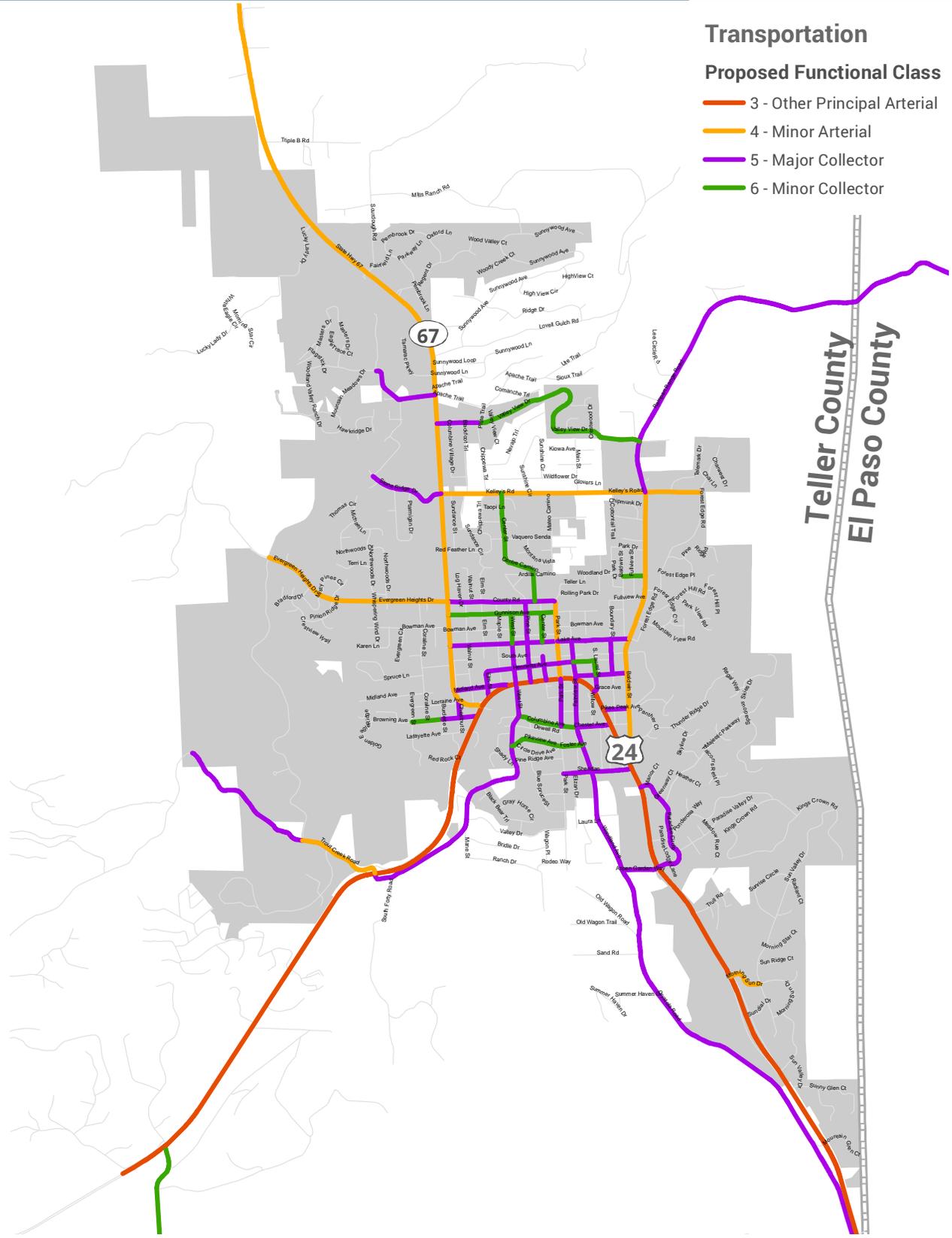


Table 7. Commuter Types, Numbers, and Percentages

Commuter Type	# 2000 Census	% 2000 Census	# 2019 Census	% 2019 Census	2021 Questionnaire
Drove alone to work	2,915	81.4%	2,727	74%	79%
Carpooled	438	12.2%	363	10%	NA
Worked at Home	101	2.8%	478	13%	15%
Walked	60	1.7%	35	1%	5%
Used Other Means	57	1.6%	102	3%	1%
Used Public Transportation (including taxi)	9	.03%	0	0%	0%

2000 Data is from the Decennial Census
 2019 Data is from the US Census American Community Survey
 2021 Data from community questionnaires

**1,960 people
 Commute into
 Woodland Park
 for Work**



**570 People
 Live and Work in
 Woodland Park**

**2,351 people
 Commute out of
 Woodland Park
 for Work**



U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (2002-2018). Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program, accessed on March 2021 at <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>. LODES 7.5

The Fountain Creek watershed covers 928 square miles and drains into the Arkansas River in Pueblo. The headwaters of Fountain Creek begin in Woodland Park. In addition, the north portion of Woodland Park drains to the South Platte watershed via Loy Gulch and Trout Creek. In an area with such dramatic terrain, watershed drainage is an important factor to consider in transportation, development, and growth to prevent impacts that would increase flooding, erosion, and impact water quality. The 2015 Stormwater Master Plan includes data collection for the 1,500 culverts and 32 detention ponds in Woodland Park, a stream stability assessment for Fountain Creek in and around the City, problem identification, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) development, and a financial review. This document is still relevant and can be used to plan maintenance and capital improvement projects. Additional plans will also be needed. Once Woodland Park’s population reaches 10,000, the City will need to create a new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) department to comply with State regulations for stormwater runoff.



Photo by Gail Wingerd



Photo by Kierstyn Peterson

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Transportation Goal 1: *Promote a multi-modal transportation network that includes a Highway 24 reliever route that facilitates safe and efficient movement throughout the community.*

Transportation Objective 1.1: Understand travel patterns in and around Woodland Park to make informed decisions about transportation and land use plans.

Transportation Action 1.1.1: Collect motor vehicle traffic and major intersection turning data during peak and off-peak seasons for weekdays and week-ends, and collect traffic accident data (vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian) to better understand travel patterns and safety and capacity needs. (1-2 years)

Transportation Action 1.1.2: Complete a community survey to determine where and modes of transportation (private auto, Uber/Lyft/taxi, Senior Coalition Transportation, and other services) are used and what the preferred use would be for work, shopping, and errands to determine strategic needs. (1-2 years)

Transportation Action 1.1.3: Implement a GIS system-based Asset Management System for coordination of City projects, documentation of repair costs and locations, and management of these assets. (1-2 years)

Transportation Action 1.1.4: Regularly update and adopt a Capital Improvement Plan for transportation and drainage projects. (1-2 years)

Transportation Action 1.1.5: Review and revise Highway 24 and Highway 67 access control plans. (1-2 years)

Transportation Objective 1.2: Continue to assist in implementation of the PPACG Moving

Forward 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan and other future regional plans.

Transportation Action 1.2.1: In cooperation with Teller County, Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG), Colorado Department of Transportation, Colorado legislature, and United States Congress, aggressively pursue the 2025 development and implementation of the U.S. Highway 24 Corridor Study. (3-5 years)

Transportation Action 1.2.2: Continue to monitor the regional transportation plan implementation; seek additional regional, State, and Federal transportation funding; and pursue all feasible opportunities to leverage and maximize funds for transportation (vehicle, transit, and bicycle/pedestrian) projects. (Ongoing)

Transportation Objective 1.3: Build and maintain a network of “Complete Streets” which connect major destinations safely and efficiently.

Transportation Action 1.3.1: Continue to update and implement the Pavement Management Program. (Ongoing)

Transportation Action 1.3.2: Implement a GIS-based Asset Management System for City infrastructure that indicates residential or commercial street types to better coordinate all street and utility construction and maintenance projects; to identify cost sharing opportunities; and to retrofit existing streets to Complete Streets, where needed. (1-2 years)

Transportation Action 1.3.3: Prepare and implement a Complete Streets Manual for street, sidewalk, bikeway, and trail design. (1-2 years)

Transportation Action 1.3.4: Amend design criteria, engineering specifications, and ordinances to accommodate Complete Streets in new development and redevelopment, especially downtown. (3-5 years)

Transportation Action 1.3.5: Be cognizant of, and sensitive to, potential negative traffic impacts of commercial development to adjacent neighborhoods and mitigate traffic, noise, lighting, and other negative impacts to the maximum extent feasible. (Ongoing)

Transportation Objective 1.4: Accommodate alternative means of transportation (i.e., transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and micromobility which is a range of small, lightweight vehicles operating at speeds typically below 25 miles per hour).

Transportation Action 1.4.1: Coordinate with the City and County Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plans, and Woodland Park School District regarding current and future trails and sidewalks throughout the City and growth management area. (Ongoing)

Transportation Action 1.4.2: Prepare and adopt a Bike and Sidewalk Transportation Plan with particular emphasis on ADA compliance and "Safe Routes to School." (3-5 years)

Transportation Action 1.4.3: Continue to promote alternative transportation services and work with the Teller County Senior Coalition and other transportation service providers (Uber, Lyft, and other services) to expand transportation services that meet the needs of the community. (Ongoing)

Drainage Goal 1: *Woodland Park will manage stormwater to prevent erosion and flooding and to protect water quality and downstream users.*

Drainage Objective 1.1: Ensure that the City has a comprehensive, environmentally sensitive, and cost-effective plan to manage stormwater runoff and protect downstream communities and riparian corridors.

Drainage Action 1.1.1: Implement and document changes to the 2015 Stormwater Master Plan. (3-5 years)

Drainage Action 1.1.2: Continue to coordinate with the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, Fountain Creek Watershed Group, City of Colorado Springs, Teller County, El Paso County, and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte, as appropriate, to update the City's drainage design criteria. Strive to incorporate innovative methods to minimize stormwater runoff and to enhance water quality and wildlife habitat. (Ongoing)

Drainage Action 1.1.3: Annually examine stormwater fees and update them to comply with the City Ordinance for inflation and as necessary to ensure they are adequate to sustain debt service, projected capital improvements, operations, and maintenance. (Ongoing)

Drainage Action 1.1.4: Educate the public on preventing stormwater pollution and reducing stormwater runoff, (e.g., adding a link to the EPA's "After the Storm" brochure on the City's website, <http://www.epa.gov/weatherchannel/stormwater.html>), adding information to customer's utility bills, and providing stormwater fact sheets. (Ongoing)

Drainage Action 1.1.5: Continue to promote the use of Low Impact Development design and construction techniques. Coordinate with the Planning Department to ensure that the applicant's planners and engineers are made aware of these techniques at the beginning of the design and application process. (Ongoing)

Drainage Action 1.1.6: Plan to develop the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Department when the population reaches 10,000. (3-5 years)

TRANSPORTATION RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, 2018
- Woodland Park Trails data, 2020
- Colorado Department of Transportation Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts, 2020
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010
- Pikes Peak Area County of Governments 2045 Moving Forward, 2020
- Woodland Park Traffic Circulation Study, 2015
- Woodland Park Bypass Study, 1993

DRAINAGE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Woodland Park Stormwater Management Plan, 2015
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010







Community Wellbeing

Vision: *Strive to create an environment where all people feel welcomed, connected to one another, and involved in our mountain-western community by fostering opportunities for self-determination, inclusion, and engagement in activities that promote healthy and sustainable living patterns within the community.*



BACKGROUND

Community wellbeing is a set of shared norms and values that create an environment where residents feel welcomed, feel connected to one another by overlapping and meaningful interests and goals, and are not subject to the ongoing stressors of social, bodily, or mental harm. In addition, community wellbeing fosters residents' opportunities for self-determination and engagement in activities that promote

healthy and sustainable living patterns within the community. Wellness includes health, education, recreation or physical fitness, civility, and senior services.

Wellness definition: "The active pursuit of activities, choices and lifestyles that lead to a state of holistic health" (The Global Wellness Institute).

RECREATION PROGRAMS

The mission of the Woodland Park Parks and Recreation Department is to provide recreational programming that enhances our community members' health, fitness, leisure time, and life-long learning. The City's recreation programs provide a wide variety of activities for all age groups. Parks and Recreation programs play a critical role in the physical, social, and mental health of our community. Programs or partners include Youth and Adult Sports, Youth and Adult Art Programs, Youth Art and Sports Camp, Adult Fitness, Hive Hockey, Woodland Park Hockey Association, Pickleball Above the Clouds, WPFC Pride Soccer, and others.

In addition to fitness, the Woodland Aquatic Center offers social events such as Dive-in Movies, Parents' Night Out, party rentals, and after hour rentals. Twenty-five years ago, the Ute Pass Cultural Center was renovated

and today it provides a unique public space for a wide variety of community events. The cultural and community events include musical concerts, luncheons, weddings, and craft fairs. Several private fitness businesses and nonprofit organizations also provide social and learning activities.



Woodland Park Aquatic Center

EDUCATION

The Woodland Park Re-2 School District serves approximately 2,000 students with over 300 staff members and has unique educational opportunities in all grade levels at three elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. A new Early Childhood Center, located at Gateway Elementary, is planned to open in the Fall of 2021. All District schools have recently received safety-focused upgrades

and are in unique and beautiful educational settings. Woodland Park School District is large enough to offer a wide variety of experiences and opportunities for students, while small enough to provide a personalized approach. The District offers a variety of learning environment options including in-person, remote/online, and the Enrichment Academy which supports homeschooling. Additional educational options

include Colorado Springs Christian School Woodland Park, 4K-8 Faith-based education, and the Merit Academy for a public classical education.

Charis Bible College is a Bible training college that equips adults of various backgrounds to do the applied work of Christian ministry in every sphere of society. Charis offers some distance learning, a 2-year program, and a variety of third year programs to over 700 students per year who are enrolled at the main campus in Woodland Park.

The Rampart Library District consists of two libraries: one in Woodland Park and one in Florissant. Their missions are “to provide a welcoming community environment, engaging programs, and access to reliable sources of information and resources with prompt professional service.” They have a robust Library Foundation for fundraising to ensure the long-term viability of the District. The Library offers meeting rooms, outdoor events, computer classes, and other digital media resources. In addition to books and library portal access, the Library also provides support to the community by providing tax forms, Colorado driver information, and job-search platforms.



Photo credit Rampart Library District

HEALTH

Woodland Park prioritizes health by assuring an adequate local health infrastructure; promoting healthy community and healthy behaviors; protecting against environmental health hazards; and preparing and responding to emergencies. From planning and zoning to infrastructure support, the City has structured a conducive operational philosophy to assist in the establishment and success of all interested medical facilities. Regional health concerns (i.e., food safety and vaccinations) are addressed in collaboration and partnership with the Teller County Public Health Department. Woodland Park’s medical services and Pikes Peak Regional Hospital serve a very large area in Teller County. Pikes Peak Regional Hospital is a 15-bed facility with 24-hour emergency care.



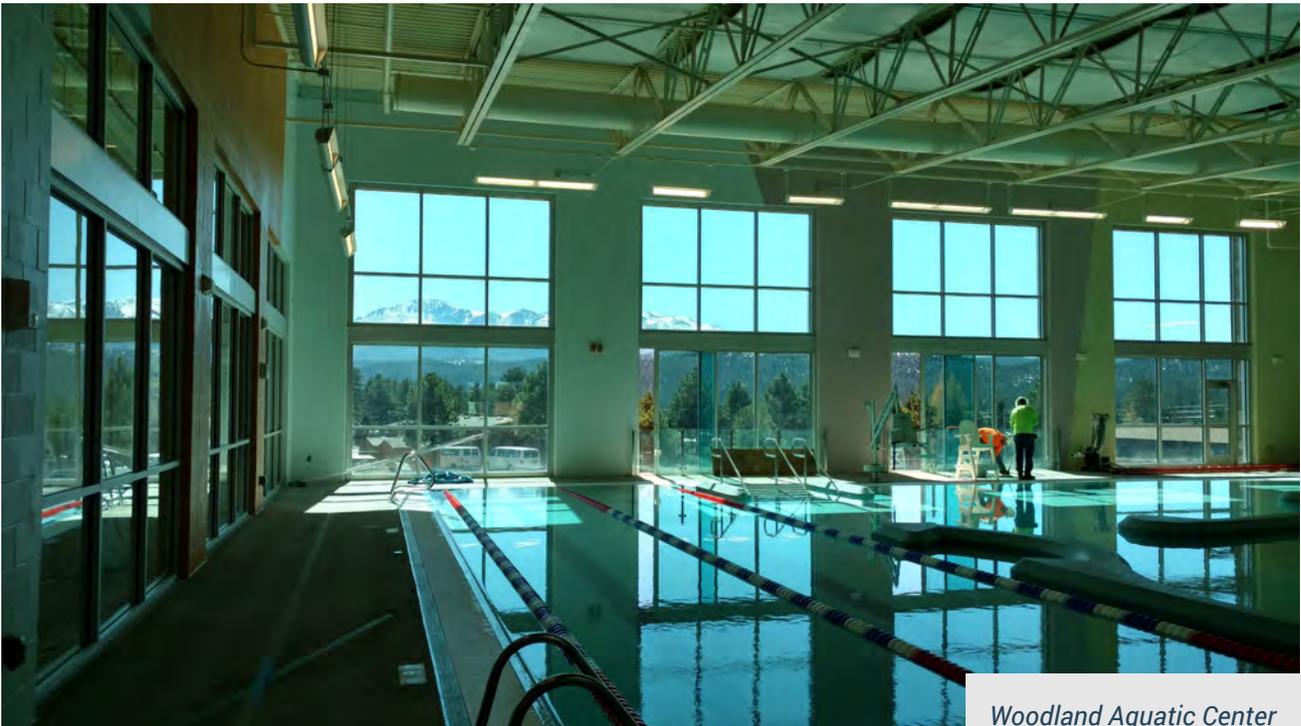
Woodland Park Kids race

In addition to medical care, the hospital provides diversified employment in the region. Other medical facilities support a variety of healing practices, such as acupuncture, counseling, chiropractic, therapy, and dentistry services.

Woodland Park prioritizes preventive care and healthy living through fitness, healthy food, and spiritual health options. The keys to health and fitness are variety, options, and accessibility. Schools offer comprehensive programs, sports, and activities. The parks, trails, and open spaces are free resources available to all. For indoor recreation, there are a number of private gyms and health clubs. Health-focused food is available at two natural food stores and the award-winning Farmers' Market.

SENIOR SERVICES

Demographic trends show a growing percentage of seniors living in Woodland Park. Due to this increase, a number of organizations provide senior services, including assisted living, adult daycare, social activities, transportation, and home services. Woodland Park strives to be an age-friendly community that provides access and facilities year-round for all ages and mobilities.



Woodland Aquatic Center

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Recreation Goal 1: *Continue to provide a balanced selection of high-quality programs and activities that enhance the health, education, and leisure time for citizens of all ages and interests.*

Recreation Objective 1.1: Continue to ensure that the recreation programs complement the community's needs and that the City obtains sufficient revenue consistent with a cost recovery policy.

Recreation Action 1.1.1: Conduct periodic interest surveys to determine if the selection of recreation programs and activities are appropriate for the community. (Every 2-3 years)

Recreation Action 1.1.2: Continue to collect recreation programming data and analyze various metrics to determine participant satisfaction levels, resident and non-resident participation levels, and registration trends. (Ongoing)

Recreation Action 1.1.3: Research, evaluate, and develop a fee recovery policy for recreation programs and events, the Ute Pass Cultural Center, and the Woodland Aquatics Center. (1-2 years)

Recreation Action 1.1.4: Continue to enhance online registrations and market all recreation programs and activities through creative outreach methods. (Ongoing)

Recreation Action 1.1.5: Continue to evaluate and expand youth swimming programs in order that children will have an opportunity to learn to swim and safely enjoy aquatic experiences. (Ongoing)

Recreation Action 1.1.6: Continue to evaluate and expand adult and senior swimming activities for fitness, therapy, rehabilitation, and recreation. (Ongoing)

Recreation Action 1.1.7: Provide teenagers and adults employment, training, leadership, and volunteer opportunities through a variety of experiences, such as, lifeguarding, officiating, scorekeeping, and coaching. (Ongoing)

Recreation Action 1.1.8: Continue to coordinate the sharing of recreation facilities with the Woodland Park Re-2 School District and other public/private recreational facilities, when possible. (Ongoing)

Recreation Action 1.1.9: Continue to support competitive or club sports/programs by providing facilities and mutually beneficial promotions. (Ongoing)

Recreation Action 1.1.10: Continue to partner with local businesses and organizations to fund and promote sponsorships for youth sports and programs. Create fundraisers to support scholarships to enable as many people as possible to participate in recreation programs. (Ongoing)

Education Goal 1: Woodland Park values, supports, and invests in local education systems as essential instruments in community development.

Education Objective 1.1: The City will foster a positive educational environment by focusing on promotion, collaborations, and connections.

Education Action (Promotion) 1.1.1: Encourage residents to participate in promotional campaigns that clearly identify the features and benefits of local schools. (Ongoing)

Education Action (Connection) 1.1.2: Continue facility-sharing agreements with the Woodland Park Re-2 School District and other local schools, as well as the Woodland Park Public Library and other community classrooms to increase opportunities for community educational, recreational, and social activities. (Ongoing)

Education Action (Collaboration) 1.1.3: Partner with schools to create safer educational environments by reducing traffic congestion that occurs at the beginning and end of each school day. (Ongoing)

Education Action (Collaboration) 1.1.4: Explore new collaborative opportunities with the School District and other local schools, such as offering internship opportunities for students that wish to be involved in local government or providing educational sessions at schools on City initiatives and programs. (Ongoing)

Education Goal 2 (Library): The City will continue to promote library programs.

Education Objective (Library) 2.1: The library will become the center of support for the entire community.

Education Action (Library) 2.1.1: Promote the library's community programs via web links and information sharing. (Ongoing)

Education Action (Library) 2.1.2: Continue to honor the 99-year Intergovernmental Agreement for the maintenance of the surrounding library public parking lot. (Ongoing)

Health Goal 1: Woodland Park community members can live a healthy lifestyle with access to recreation, fitness, and medical care that supports their physical and mental health.

Health Objective 1.1: Encourage City departments and officials to promote designs that increase the options for physical activity, social interaction, and healthy lifestyles.

Health Action 1.1.1: When new land use applications are reviewed by the City Planning Department staff and the Planning Commission, ensure that the design and facilities encourage healthy lifestyles including ADA-accessible sidewalks and paved connecting paths, especially between civic buildings. (Ongoing)

Health Action 1.1.2: Continue to support recreational, rehabilitative, and medical businesses and agencies (organizations) that operate or are opening in Woodland Park with expedited business-friendly service and governmental infrastructure. (Ongoing)

Senior Services Goal 1: *Create a community that supports seniors as they move through the aging process.*

Senior Services Objective 1.1: Support seniors to be self-sufficient and able to age in place for as long as possible. (Ongoing)

Senior Services Action 1.1.1: Encourage housing agencies and developers to consider providing attainable senior housing. (Ongoing)

Senior Services Action 1.1.2: Promote and expand the implementation of Accessory Dwelling Units and consider more flexible zoning regulations of ADUs. See Chapter 3 for further information. (1-2 years)

Senior Services Action 1.1.3: Continue to support Woodland Park Senior Center organizations. (Ongoing)

Senior Services Action 1.1.4: Continue to provide information and access to resources for senior Woodland Park residents. (Ongoing)







Arts, Culture, and Community Heritage

Vision: *Enrich the community and facilitate art and cultural development by connecting residents, local businesses, local government, and visitors to foster an appreciation of the arts and culture.*



BACKGROUND

Established on June 6, 1891, Woodland Park has a rich history as a railroad town that supported access to gold mining in Cripple Creek and Victor. The cattle ranches that followed brought a rodeo and cowboy culture. Major historic influences include annual Ute migrations, the fur trapping industry, the cavalry, gold miners, loggers, the Midland Railroad, cattle ranchers,

potato and lettuce farmers, gaming houses, and dance halls. This history is evident in the design and architecture of Woodland Park and sets it aside from other Colorado mountain communities with less focus on ranching. As a vibrant, tourism-oriented community, Woodland Park has several art galleries, two museums, and multiple community events.

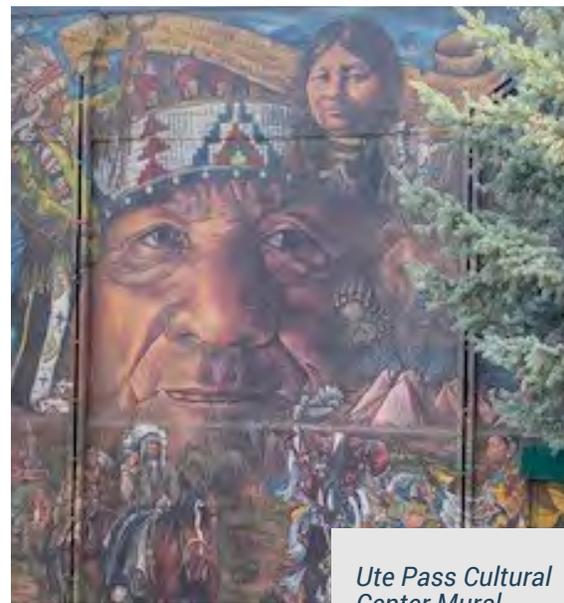
PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE

The Ute Pass Historical Society operates the Ute Pass History Park and Ute Pass Museum Center, which are located in the heart of Woodland Park next to the Woodland Park Library and the Ute Pass Cultural Center. The Society has been instrumental in conserving and preserving area history, thereby contributing to the cultural edification of residents and visitors alike since 1976.

The City of Woodland Park adopted the Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1994 and established the Woodland Park Historical Preservation Committee in 2000. The role of the Historical Preservation Committee is to:

- Protect and preserve the historical and cultural heritage of the City through historical landmark designations;
- Acquire, preserve, and manage significant historical documents, artifacts, and structures;
- Regulate the alteration, relocation, removal, or destruction of historically significant sites or artifacts; and
- Encourage and provide educational opportunities to increase the appreciation and understanding of Woodland Park and its surrounding areas.

Once a structure is locally landmarked, the Committee reviews proposals for moving, exterior remodeling, and/or demolition of the structure. In addition, the Committee conducts historical surveys and assists with public



Ute Pass Cultural Center Mural

education programs about local history. Any major projects such as surveys, structural assessments, or restorations are usually funded with grants from the State Historical Fund (matching money is usually supported by the City's General Fund). The historic survey conducted in 2005 identified eight additional historic landmarks identified in the map on page 110. A more recent survey was conducted in 2016 that reviewed 30 buildings. Volunteers from the Ute Pass Historical Society provide free historic walking tours to better understand the history of Woodland Park. When asked if the community is aware of the historic walking tour, 30 percent of respondents noted that they were not aware of the walking tour, but would like to participate.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Woodland Park has about 30 City events per year, with additional events held by Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce, Woodland Park High School, and other organizations. City signature events and locations are listed below. These events reflect the vibrant culture and rich history of Woodland Park. When the community was asked to provide feedback about the number of events, 54 percent of respondents said they would like to see more events, 41 percent said the number is just right, and the remaining 5 percent said there should be fewer events. Note that this questionnaire was conducted in 2021 and many people missed the 2020 events that were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Between 2012 and 2019 there has been an increase of approximately 25 percent in event attendance, from 98,663 participants in 2012 to 123,843 participants in 2019.

As noted in the Chapter 4, Community Character, chapter, public art can provide a sense of place; establish pride in the community; and beautify the community. The Woodland Park Main Street is a key partner in creating these community placemaking opportunities. Music, theater, natural and cultural interpretive programs, and community events also fill the role of defining the character of the City and help to make Woodland Park a great place to live and visit.



Woodland Park had 30+ events in 2019 and attracted approximately 123,850 visitors

City of Woodland Park 2020

Table 8. Signature Event Locations

Event Name	Location
Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration	Memorial Park
Lighter Side of Christmas Parade	Main Street
Cruise Above the Clouds	Memorial Park
Mountain Arts Festival	Cultural Center
Symphony Above the Clouds	Woodland Park Middle School
Woodland Park Farmer's Market	Memorial Park
Arts and Craft Fair	Memorial Park

Art, Culture, and Community Heritage Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee

ART AND HISTORIC LANDMARKS MAP

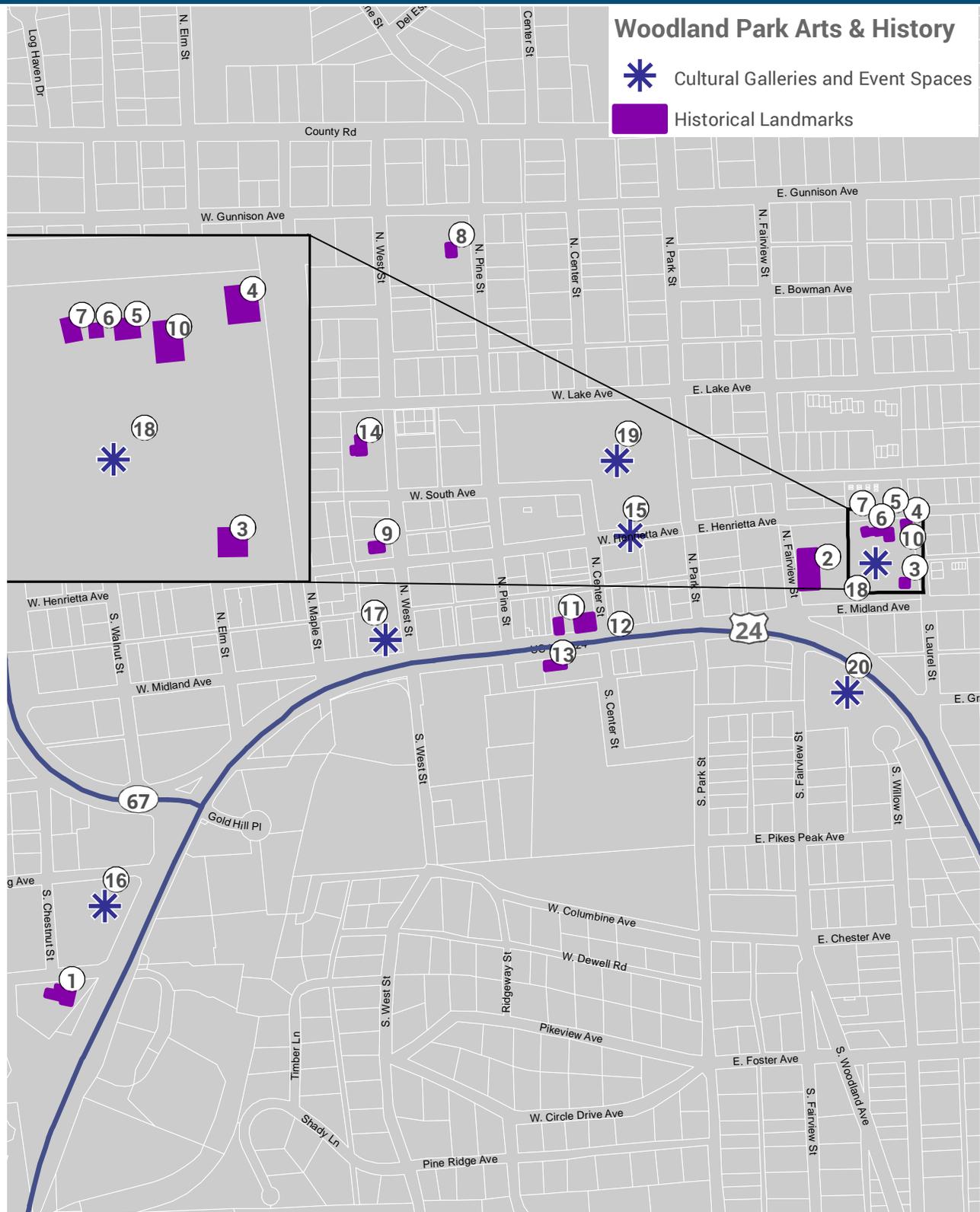


Table 9. Key for Art and Historic Landmarks Map

Key	Name	Year Built	Address
1	Ouray Inn	1948	720 W. Hwy 24
2	Ute Pass Cultural Center	1938	210 E. Midland Ave.
3	Steffa Cabin	1895	230 E. Midland Ave.
4	Immer Cabin	1948	122 Laurel St.
5	Brockhurst Cabin	1926	231 Henrietta Ave.
6	Calaboose	1891	231 Henrietta Ave.
7	Carroll Den	1920s	231 Henrietta Ave.
8	Maytag House	1934	301 W. Gunnison Ave.
9	Carroll Cabin	1922	202 N. West St.
10	Ute Pass Historical Society Museum	1890	231 Henrietta Ave.
11	U.S. Post Office	1937	210 W. Midland Ave.
12	N.W. Terrill Mercantile	1893	200 W. Midland Ave.
13	Midland Terminal Depot	1935	211 W. Midland Ave
14	El Dorado Casino	1932	312 N. West St.

Key	Name	Cultural Event	Address
2	Ute Pass Cultural Center	Art Exhibits	210 E. Midland Ave.
15	Farmer's Market	Summer Event	117 Center Ave.
16	Eichman Gallery	Gallery	Park State Bank & Trust 710 U.S. Hwy 24
17	Reserve-Our Gallery	Gallery	400 W. Midland Ave.
18	Woodland Park Public Library	Downstairs Gallery	218 E Midland Ave.
19	Memorial Park	Events	200 N Park St
20	Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center	Multiple Events	201 S Fairview St
	Dickson Auditorium	Theater and Music	151 N Baldwin St Not within map extent
	Woodland Park Middle School	Events	600 E Kelley's Rd Not within map extent

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Arts and Culture Goal 1: Increase public art and cultural expression throughout Woodland Park.

Arts and Culture Objective 1.1: Support local artists, musicians, and performers and efforts to provide opportunities to learn about, appreciate and enjoy art, music, and the performing arts.

Arts and Culture Action 1.1.1: Continue to receive assistance from the City at major events with first responder and emergency services. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.1.2: Meet with visual and performing artists to explore opportunities to work together on common goals. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.1.3: Continue to encourage cultural activities through the Woodland Park Public Library, Mountain Arts Council, Woodland Park Arts Alliance, Ute Pass Historical Society, Re-2 School District, Teller County Nonprofit Cooperative, SOAR, and other non-profit groups. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.1.4: Reinstate the Community Investment Fund to enhance the area's cultural offerings. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.1.5: Collaborate with the Re-2 School District, the Rampart Library District, and other appropriate groups to explore the viability of establishing an Art in Public Places program. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Objective 1.2: Continue to support cultural events.

Arts and Culture Action 1.2.1: Promote local art by posting information about hosted community activities. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.2.2: Create a system to determine the impact that special events have on the community (e.g., the number of attendees and where they originated, staff hours contributed, economic benefits). (1-2 years)

Arts and Culture Action 1.2.3: Continue to improve the process to obtain a Temporary Use Permit for Special Events and Vendors. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.2.4: Ensure that community events and activities are ADA-compliant. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Objective 1.3: Improve existing facilities for cultural events and collaborate on different visions for those improvements.

Arts and Culture Action 1.3.1: Enhance the sound system, lighting, and acoustics in the Cultural Center, as appropriate. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.3.2: Continue partnerships between the school district and local organizations to utilize Dickson Auditorium. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.3.3: Continue to support and facilitate the usage of the Midland Pavilion. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Objective 1.4: Continue to encourage arts, cultural, and historical references in downtown Woodland Park.

Arts and Culture Action 1.4.1: Concentrate public art in the downtown area. (Ongoing)

Arts and Culture Action 1.4.2: Continue innovative pursuit of a viable City beatification flower program. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Goal 1: Encourage Woodland Park community members to become a part of the local history and understand the importance of protecting and preserving it.

Community Heritage Objective 1.1: Increase the public's awareness of the value of Woodland Park's history and historical resources.

Community Heritage Action 1.1.1: Continue pertinent oral history interviews. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.1.2: Continue providing historical walking tours and place interpretive signage in front of historic buildings throughout the City. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.1.3: Encourage collaboration between groups within Teller County that are involved with historical preservation. Consider hosting a summit or forum in conjunction with Preservation Month. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.1.4: Continue to celebrate "May as Preservation Month" to build awareness of the importance of historical preservation with events, digital and printed media. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.1.5: Continue to maintain a strong and active membership of the Historical Preservation Committee by highlighting member accomplishments in public venues and recognizing members at volunteer appreciation events. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.1.6: Publicize and continue to celebrate the unveiling of historic landmark plaques and encourage new buildings to display commemorative plaques. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.1.7: Work with the Woodland Park Re-2 School District to integrate the area's history into school curriculum and programs to educate the students about the importance of historical preservation. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.1.8: Consider implementing a historic overlay

zone to provide targeted educational and preservation measures in specific areas of the City. (1-2 years)

Community Heritage Objective 1.2: Encourage preservation of identified historical resources, subject to review by staff.

Community Heritage Action 1.2.1: Develop design guidelines and standards to follow when proposed projects involve or could impact historical buildings. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.2.2: Ensure that the Historical Preservation Committee is included in the referral process for land use applications that may potentially impact historical resources. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.2.3: Ensure that appropriate consideration has been given to the impacts of demolition proposals for significant historical buildings. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.2.4: Encourage developers to salvage components of historical structures being demolished for re-used in art or education. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 1.2.5: Promote the incorporation of historical elements or dynamic historical statements in new buildings both inside and outside the structure. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Goal 2: *Dedicate resources to recovering and promoting Woodland Park's history.*

Community Heritage Objective 2.1: Promote a strong sense of Woodland Park's history.

Community Heritage Action 2.1.1: Establish a budget for the Historical Preservation Committee to use in pursuit of its objectives. (1-2 years)

Community Heritage Action 2.1.2: Incorporate historical people, events, and themes into public art and historical displays. For example, work with arts and historical groups to include historical art on pedestrian paths and alleyways. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 2.1.3: Celebrate Woodland Park's history through public and private means, special events, historic landmarks, and other public affairs. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 2.1.4: Document local family histories through oral memories, interviews published in the local paper or on the City's website or other media, and connect those family histories to the streets, parks, and other facilities that are named after them. Explore opportunities to collaborate with the Woodland Park High School, Senior Center, Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mines, mountain dude ranches, Pikes Peak Community College, Rampart Library District, and University of Colorado in Colorado Springs to both conduct interviews and promote these histories. High priority interviews include the Bergstrom and Maytag families. (1-2 years)

Community Heritage Action 2.1.5: Continue to grow History Park, expand the Museum Center to include the Depot Building at Bergstrom Park and the Junction House, and plan for additional museum space.(ongoing)

Community Heritage Objective 2.2: Create a sense of place.

Community Heritage Action 2.2.1: Work with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Woodland Park Re-2 School District, Ute Pass Historical Society, Woodland Park Main Street, Rampart Library District, local landowners, and local artists to incorporate interpretive signage and historically-themed art in parks, trails, open areas, and neighborhoods. (Ongoing)

Community Heritage Action 2.2.2: Encourage residents and visitors to experience our sense of community and cultural appreciation by exploring Woodland Park's culture, art, and historical heritage. (Ongoing)

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- City of Woodland Park Historical and Architectural Survey, 2005
- City of Woodland Park Historical and Architectural Survey, 2016
- City of Woodland Park Comprehensive Plan, 2010



Community Farmers Market