

# Legacy Lafayette Comprehensive Plan

## Preliminary Draft: Guiding Principles and Goals

February 2020

### Plan Organization and Definitions

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Key terms and organizing components detailed below:

#### Plan Themes

Common themes that apply to plan elements (areas of emphasis for goals, policies and implementation strategies and actions):

- Community Character
- Environmental Stewardship
- Connected Community
- Strong Economy

#### Definition: Elements

The main topics or organizing “chapters” of the Comprehensive Plan, “nested” under each plan theme. Each element contains a suite of supporting goals and policies to inform future decision-making. An example of a plan element within the theme of Environmental Stewardship is **Health and Wellness**. The “Sustainability Wheel” diagram illustrates the revised set of plan Elements for the Comprehensive Plan.



**Elements:**

- Arts & Culture
- Neighborhood Design
- Historic Heritage
- Parks & Open Space
- Technology / Communications / Smart Cities
- Accessibility & Safety
- Multi-Culturalism
- Multi-Modal Mobility
- Health & Wellness
- Resiliency
- Sustainable Infrastructure
- Regional Cooperation
- Economic Diversification
- Jobs to Housing Balance

### Definition: Guiding Principle

Each plan theme is framed by a guiding principle. A guiding principle reflects the community’s vision for each plan theme, and begins with the words “Lafayette will”. An example of a guiding principle for the Environmental Stewardship theme may be **“Lafayette will protect and enhance its natural environment and scenic vistas, with particular emphasis on open lands preservation.”**

### Definition: Goals

A goal is a qualitative statement of desired direction or future conditions. Goals read like directives to the community at-large and start with the word “To”. Goals should be carefully crafted to ensure that they are achievable. Each element should ideally be limited to one or two achievable goals to emphasize their importance. An example of a goal for the Parks & Open Space element may be **“To establish an interconnected "green" physical framework of open lands, natural areas, wildlife corridors and habitat areas using a variety of conservation methods.”**

### Definition: Policies

Policies are statements of the City’s official position to inform decision-making for all growth, development, and land-use matters. A policy begins with the words “The City shall”. An example of a policy for the Parks & Open Space element goal listed above may be **“The City shall endeavor to purchase as open space any land within the planning area that has been designated as rural preservation or community buffer under an Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) to which the City is a signatory.”**

### Definition: Strategies

A statement of a specific approach directed toward the achievement of a plan theme goal. An example of a strategy for the Neighborhood Design element goal listed above may be “Use Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA’s), Transferable Development Rights (TDR’s), Purchase of Development Rights (PDR’s) and other cooperative land management tools to ensure that development occurs within appropriate locations and at the appropriate rates.”

### Notes:

- An **intergovernmental agreement (IGA)** is any agreement that involves or is made between two or more governments in cooperation to solve problems of mutual concern. Intergovernmental agreements can be made between or among a broad range of governmental or quasi-governmental entities. Governments use IGAs for cooperative planning, development review, resource sharing, joint planning commissions, building inspection services, and more.
- **Transferable Development Rights (TDR)** programs allow for development rights in one area (often, a more rural area or an area desired to be maintained as open space) to be voluntarily transferred to a “receiving area” that can more appropriately accommodate the development.
- **Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)** programs provide landowners an economically attractive alternative to selling land for development by compensating them for the

development rights on their land. To receive PDR funds, landowners must be sponsored by a qualified land conservation organization.

### Definition: Actions

A statement of an initiative based on its potential to implement a key strategy. An example of an action for the strategy listed above may be “Work with Boulder County to designate appropriate receiving and sending sites within the Planning Area as part of the Transfer of Development Rights Intergovernmental Agreement.”

- Actions can be assigned to a general category, such as:
  - Regulations (e.g., code changes)
  - Plan development/revisions
  - Public/capital improvements
  - Policy changes/updates (including development review processes, unless codified)
  - Programs
  - Coordination & Partnerships
  - Financial Mechanisms

### Definitions: Metrics / Indicators

Each plan theme will include a handful (anywhere from two to five) of metrics/indicators as ways to monitor the progress and impacts of the plan over time. These are measurable and have a known and reliable data source. Baseline values can be provided if data is available. Ideally these will represent progress towards achieving the vision and guiding principle. There may not be a 1:1 ratio of indicators to elements if data are unavailable.

## Vision

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Explanation about where this vision came from and how it frames the rest of the plan content and maps.

### Vision Statement

A statement of a community's vision for its future. An example is Lafayette's current vision statement:

**“Lafayette’s panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains inspires our view into the future. We value our heritage, our unique neighborhoods, a vibrant economy and active lifestyles. We envision a future that mixes small town livability with balanced growth and superior city services. “**

## Community Character Theme

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### Guiding Principle – Community Character:

Lafayette will grow and reinvest strategically to complement the community's small town and historic character, strengthen its unique neighborhoods, and maintain its focus on arts, culture, and the natural environment.

### Elements – Community Character

#### Arts & Culture

##### *Goals*

**Goal 1:** To encourage the enhancement and expansion of arts and cultural programming and events throughout the community

**Goal 2:** To integrate public art within the design of existing and new areas in the City

#### Neighborhood Design

##### *Goals*

**Goal 1:** To encourage the use of community design strategies to enhance streetscapes and provide for an enhanced public realm

**Goal 2:** To encourage the completion of connections from local neighborhoods to parks and open space areas and community destinations

**Goal 3:** To encourage the completion of neighborhood destinations and other areas of community activity, in different neighborhoods around the City.

## Historic Heritage

### *Goals*

**Goal 1:** To ensure the protection, rehabilitation, and adaptive re-use of historic resources in the City

**Goal 2:** To integrate the stories of Lafayette’s history in the design of new and existing areas of the community.

## Parks and Open Space

### *Goals*

**Goal 1:** To provide, where appropriate, high-quality outdoor recreation and trail opportunities that are consistent with the values of Open Space lands, provide high quality access between Open Space, parks, and community destinations, and minimize adverse impacts to the environment.

**Goal 2:** To administer the Open Space and trails program in a manner that is effective, efficient, and responsive to the ever-changing management needs of Open Space and trails.

**Goal 3:** To develop, manage, and maintain the City’s Open Space and trails in a manner that is sensitive to and respectful of adjacent landowners, land uses, and communities.

## **Environmental Stewardship Theme**

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### Guiding Principle – Environmental Stewardship

Lafayette will demonstrate leadership in environmental stewardship, seek deep carbon emission reductions and sequestration, and support a healthy and resilient community by preserving parks and open space, bolstering natural and human-made systems, and using resources efficiently.

### Elements – Environmental Stewardship

#### Parks & Open Space

##### *Goals*

**Goal 1:** To preserve and enhance significant natural areas and wildlife habitat, as well as the ecological integrity of the greater Lafayette region, while applying a strategic approach to Open Space conservation.

**Goal 2:** To collaborate with Boulder County, the City and County of Broomfield, the City of Louisville, and the Town of Erie on the conservation and management of Open Space and rural preservation areas of mutual interest.

**Goal 3:** To provide an effective and balanced approach to Open Space management that protects and enhances environmental values.

## Resiliency

### *Goals*

Goal 1: To establish an interconnected “green” framework of trees, open lands, and water resources that strengthens natural systems and functions.

Goal 2: To protect community members and their property by planning for natural and human-caused hazards, reducing vulnerabilities, and mitigating risks.

Goal 3: To increase the ability of the natural and built environment to adapt to a changing climate.

## Health & Wellness

### *Goals*

Goal 1: To expand opportunities for community members to access nature and high quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

Goal 2: To increase access to locally-sourced and healthy food options.

Goal 3: To limit or prevent air, water, light, noise, and other sources of pollution.

## Sustainable Infrastructure

### *Goals*

Goal 1: To continuously improve the efficient use of existing infrastructure and resources to more sustainably support smart community growth.

Goal 2: To maintain and enhance community infrastructure to support future generations.

Goal 3: To support efficient, safe, and reliable infrastructure and associated service delivery.

## **Connected Community Theme**

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### Guiding Principle – Connected Community

Lafayette will pursue a multi-faceted approach to connecting community members socially, technologically, and physically, by celebrating multi-culturalism, pursuing strategies to provide for high-quality communications infrastructure, and emphasizing multimodal safety and accessibility.

### Elements – Connected Community

#### Multimodal Mobility

##### *Goals*

Goal 1: To promote safe travel for all, while increasing regional connectivity and enhancing local connections

Goal 2: To maximize the operation and use of existing transportation corridors

Goal 3: To support and promote the use of transportation alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single-occupancy automobile travel

Goal 4: To expand the network of on-street and off-street pedestrian facilities for commuting, recreation, and meeting daily needs

Goal 5: To complete missing links in the network of trails, paths and sidewalks

Goal 6: To expand opportunities for community members to be able to utilize all forms of transportation for commuting, recreation, and meeting daily needs

Goal 7: To proactively plan and coordinate with other local and regional agencies to provide high quality, reliable transit services

Goal 8: To explore the role of emerging technologies in the delivery of transportation services

### Multi-Culturalism

#### *Goals*

Goal 1: To encourage the participation of individuals from the various cultural groups in Lafayette in civic groups and leadership roles

Goal 2: To foster a culture of inclusion and an appreciation of the heritage and contributions of various cultural groups in the community

### Accessibility & Safety

#### *Goals*

Goal 1: To provide for adequate police and fire services and equipment for public health, safety, and welfare in Lafayette

Goal 2: To ensure that public facilities are well maintained and safe, and provide for equitable access to the Lafayette community

Goal 3: To provide for transparency and accessibility to the City's staff, service agencies, and elected and appointed officials

### Technology / Communications / Smart Cities

#### *Goals*

Goal 1: To encourage the provision of competitive technology and telecommunications services to efficiently serve residents and businesses in Lafayette

Goal 2: To design future expansions and maintenance to City systems to allow for the technological integration of these systems

## Strong Economy Theme

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### Guiding Principle – Strong Economy

Lafayette will work collaboratively to grow economic opportunities and maintain high quality City services.

### Elements – Strong Economy

#### Jobs to Housing Balance

##### *Goals*

Goal 1: To increase the rate of Lafayette residents who also work in Lafayette from the current rate of xx%.

Goal 2: To support housing development and program strategies that provide a supply of workforce and market rate housing to meet the economic and social needs of Lafayette.

#### Economic Diversification

##### *Goals*

Goal 1: To strengthen and stabilize the tax base.

Goal 2: To improve and maintain the quality of life of Lafayette residents via a supportive, independent and resilient local economy.

Goal 3: To capitalize upon the unique assets and characteristics of Old Town Lafayette.

Goal 4: To encourage and provide for a mix of small businesses and larger corporations to thrive in Lafayette.

#### Regional Cooperation

##### *Goals*

Goal 1: To collaborate with local jurisdictions and agencies for the purpose of maintaining balanced growth.

Goal 2: To collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to develop regional approaches to housing, transportation, and other key quality of life issues.