



**OUR LEGACY.  
OUR FUTURE.**

**BOULDER VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

# **TRENDS REPORT**

**Public Review Draft**

August 25 , 2015

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Executive Summary .....	2
Livable Community .....	4
Population	
Income	
Housing	
Land Use	
Accessible and Connected Community .....	12
Vehicle Miles Traveled	
Mode Share	
Regional Network	
Commuting	
Growth and Congestion	
Environmentally Sustainable Community .....	17
Waste	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
Energy Conservation and Use	
Water Use	
Open Space	
Biodiversity & Open Space Land Management	
Climate Change and Land Management Issues	
Human-Wildlife Conflict Reductions	
Healthy and Socially Thriving Community .....	25
Health	
Social Services	
Education	
Recreation Opportunities	
Safe Community .....	30
Perceptions of Safety	
Arrests and Accidents	
Fire-Rescue and Police	
Disaster Response	
Economically Vital Community .....	33
Economic Diversity	
Business Infrastructure	
Qualified and Diversified Workforce	
Jobs	
Creativity and Innovation	
Good Governance .....	39
Direction	
Effectiveness	
Employees	
Voter Participation	
Fiscal Responsibility	

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# INTRODUCTION

## The Use of Trends Analysis in the BVCP

The Trends Report for the 2015 Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) Update presents a diverse collection of data, including snapshots in time of current/recent conditions, as well as trends over time from different sources (identified in this draft with endnotes). Much of the information is presented at the citywide level. To allow for an appropriate perspective, some data is presented at regional scales as well. The most common regional scales included in this report are Boulder County, the Denver Metropolitan Region, and in some cases, Colorado.

The data that is used in this report comes from a variety of sources at the national, state, regional, and local levels. Data availability played a major factor in the indicators that were selected for this report. Due to data limitations, this report cannot be exhaustively comprehensive in its scope, but rather should be viewed as a resource that helps to shed light on high-level topics that the BVCP Update will address such as population, growth and development, connectivity, and others.

By highlighting existing conditions and recent changes in the community and region, this Report helps to establish the context for the BVCP Update. Previous updates have identified focus areas for new content or policy changes to the BVCP. These focus areas are determined not only by data and trends analysis, but also by issues and concerns of the time. Along with the other technical analysis products that comprise the foundations work for the BVCP Update, this Report helps to provide information to support additional conversations with the community and its decision-makers in identifying the appropriate focus areas for the update and refined policies and metrics.

## Relationship to Other BVCP Products

This report is part of a collection of technical analysis products that support and inform the 2015 BVCP Update, including:

- 2015 Community Profile
- 2015 Affordable Housing Profile
- 2015-2040 Population and Employment Forecasts
- Map Inventory Updates and Analyses
- Subcommunity Fact Sheets
- Master Plan Inventory and Alignment (to be developed)
- Accomplishments and Challenges Analysis

When taken together, these work products will provide an informational foundation for conversations and policy discussions that will occur throughout the remainder of the BVCP update process. Beyond the 2015 BVCP Update, they will serve as an informational resource in the years ahead.

## The Sustainability Framework

This report uses the components of Boulder's sustainability framework as an organizing element. Sustainability was advanced in the 2010 BVCP and has since been adapted into a framework that is used in the city's strategic plans, master plans, and projects. Sustainability is used as a unifying framework to meet environmental, economic, and social goals. The framework has two purposes: it helps to ensure policy alignment across different city departments and services provided by the city, and it also serves as a bridge linking individual planning efforts with the city's priority-based budgeting process.

## Boulder's Sustainability Framework

The City of Boulder is continuously working to provide service excellence for an inspired future and this effort, the sustainability framework helps to provide a common language for community and City Council goals and priorities and ensure consistency. The framework uses seven broad categories as outcomes necessary for Boulder's vision of a great community. Strategies to achieve those outcomes are developed and advanced in the annual budget as well as strategic and master plans.



### Safe Community

- Enforces the law, taking into account the needs of individuals and community values
- Plans for and provides timely and effective response to emergencies and natural disasters
- Fosters a climate of safety for individuals in homes, businesses, neighborhoods and public places
- Encourages shared responsibility, provides education on personal and community safety and fosters an environment that is welcoming and inclusive



### Healthy & Socially Thriving Community

- Cultivates a wide-range of recreational, cultural, educational, and social opportunities
- Supports the physical and mental well-being of its community members and actively partners with others to improve the welfare of those in need
- Fosters inclusion, embraces diversity and respects human rights
- Enhances multi-generational community enrichment and community engagement



### Livable Community

- Promotes and sustains a safe, clean and attractive place to live, work and play
- Facilitates housing options to accommodate a diverse community
- Provides safe and well-maintained public infrastructure, and provides adequate and appropriate regulation of public/ private development and resources
- Encourages sustainable development supported by reliable and affordable city services
- Supports and enhances neighborhood livability for all members of the community



### Accessible & Connected Community

- Offers and encourages a variety of safe, accessible and sustainable mobility options
- Plans, designs and maintains effective infrastructure networks
- Supports strong regional multimodal connections
- Provides open access to information, encourages innovation, enhances communication and promotes community engagement
- Supports a balanced transportation system that reflects effective land use and reduces congestion



### Environmentally Sustainable Community

- Supports and sustains natural resource and energy conservation
- Promotes and regulates an ecologically balanced community
- Mitigates and abates threats to the environment



### Economically Vital Community

- Supports an environment for creativity and innovation
- Promotes a qualified and diversified work force that meets employers' needs and supports broad-based economic diversity
- Fosters regional and public / private collaboration with key institutions and organizations that contribute to economic sustainability
- Invests in infrastructure and amenities that attract, sustain and retain diverse businesses, entrepreneurs and the associated primary jobs



### Good Governance

- Models stewardship and sustainability of the city's financial, human, information and physical assets
- Supports strategic decision-making with timely, reliable and accurate data and analysis
- Enhances and facilitates transparency, accuracy, efficiency, effectiveness and quality customer service in all city business
- Supports, develops and enhances relationships between the city and community/ regional partners
- Provides assurance of regulatory and policy compliance

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Livable Community

Boulder has an international reputation as a great city with a high quality of life. At the same time, the city and region are in a post-recession growth period that is creating questions about the pace, quality, and type of development occurring in the community. Real estate values have been in a period of accelerated growth in the past few years, and the urban service area has almost no vacant land remaining. Because there are no large tracts of undeveloped land remaining in the city, the residential unit mix has long-since shifted away from a primary focus on larger single-family homes and toward smaller homes, attached homes, and multifamily.

### Key Livability Trends:

- Boulder is the largest city in Boulder County and since 2010 its housing units have grown at a rate of approximately 0.8% a year, and its population at a rate of approximately 1.4% a year. The overall population has not significantly aged or diversified since 2000. However, an aging population is expected to be a predominant trend over the next 25 years.
- The presence of a large university student population affects citywide statistics, making the city as a whole younger and less affluent than its neighbors and the region. When the effect of the student population is accounted for, the opposite is often true.
- Boulder continues to grow and add housing units, with a majority of new units being attached and multifamily units.
- Home prices in Boulder have long been higher than the region and are rising fast in the post-recession economy.
- There is very little undeveloped land remaining within the city (less than 1% of the total parcel acreage), meaning that future growth will occur primarily through redevelopment of existing properties.

## Accessible & Connected

Boulder is a multi-modal city. Residents walk, bike, and use transit for a higher percentage of trips than their counterparts in the region. Changing travel behaviors on the part of residents have allowed Boulder to see overall reductions in key statistics such as arterial traffic volumes despite growth in population and employment.

### Key Accessibility and Connectivity Trends:

- Boulder's daily vehicle miles traveled hit a peak in the mid-2000s and haven't grown appreciably since then despite continued increases in both population and jobs.
- The mode share of single occupant vehicle (SOV) travel by Boulder residents has shown a steady decline over time that is anticipated to continue. However, the SOV mode share of non-resident employees (in-commuters) has not changed and is identified as a challenge to reaching city goals.
- Boulder's status as an employment center makes regional transportation choices especially important in meeting the community's accessibility and connectivity goals.
- Boulderites bus, bike, and walk in higher numbers than do people in the region.
- 26% of Boulder residents currently live in a 15-minute neighborhood.
- Nearly all Boulder Community Survey respondents had access to the Internet.

## Environmentally Sustainable Community

Shocks and stresses seem to be the "new normal" for communities. Within the past 10 years, Boulder has emerged from two wildfires, a major flood, and an economic downturn. Moreover, the city is preparing for Emerald Ash Borer's effects on the Ash tree canopy and is working to prevent decline of pollinators. The scientific community continues to warn about increasing rates of climate change and the need to mitigate and adapt. At the same time, Boulder is an international leader in environmental sustainability and is actively working to meet these challenges.

### Key Environmental Sustainability Trends:

- Recent waste generation trends for landfill, recycling, and composting are relatively flat in the recent past, with the single family residential sector diverting the highest percentage of its waste from the landfill, and the commercial sector generating the most waste.
- While the residential sector has seen a decrease in per-household energy use since 2005, the commercial and industrial sectors have seen the opposite trend in terms of both energy use intensity and per-employee consumption.
- Decreases in per capita water consumption have reduced Boulder's annual total water use to levels last seen in the 1970s and 1980s, when population and employment were both much lower than they are today.
- The community's open space and mountain parks are an important reservoir of biodiversity. Open space conservation efforts have preserved approximately 45,500 acres of land since the 1800s.
- Projected temperature patterns indicate a high probability of significant warming in this region over the next 20-25 years.

## Healthy & Socially Thriving

There are many positive health and social trends in Boulder, including better-than-average personal health among residents, a high quality educational system, and high levels of community satisfaction with key amenities such as parks and open spaces. At the same time other social issues, such as homelessness, remain a primary area of concern for the community.

### Key Health and Social Trends:

- Boulder County residents may be somewhat healthier than Colorado residents with respect to a variety of health indicators and have lower rates of obesity than Colorado residents.
- Access to healthy food may be improving, with hundreds of acres of OSMP land dedicated to local food production, and Farmers' Market sales nearly doubling within the last decade.
- When expressed as a percentage of total population, a 2013 point-in-time survey suggested that the concentration of homelessness in Boulder was at a similar level to Denver. Other cities in the region had both higher and lower concentrations.
- Local public schools perform at a high level compared to the state average.
- Boulder has a robust park system that meets or exceeds levels of service provided by peer cities both in the region and nationally.

## Safe Community

Although individual crime statistics tend to fluctuate from year-to-year, statistics show that crime rates in Boulder are somewhat lower than in the other large cities in Boulder County, while the number of full-time officers (per 1,000 residents) is higher. Community survey results show that Boulder is increasingly perceived by its residents as a safe community.

### Key Safety Trends

- Community perceptions of safety have generally increased over time.
- Recent arrest and accident data show that while incident counts may fluctuate somewhat from year to year, incident trends are relatively flat overall.
- The demand for emergency services (based on call activity and number of responses) is increasing over time.

## Economically Vital Community

Boulder remains a major employment center, with job growth continuing to keep pace with population growth since the 2010 BVCP update. At the same time, Boulder continues to demonstrate long-standing trends of lower unemployment rates and higher average annual wages than the region and state. A culture of innovation and a strong creative economy are drivers of Boulder's ongoing economic success.

### Key Economic Vitality Trends

- Boulder has a diverse economy supported by the university, federal labs, and a diverse mix of small and large businesses in a range of industries.
- A collaborative environment supports the creation and growth of businesses in Boulder.
- Low commercial vacancy rates, low unemployment rates, and rising lease rates reflect economic vitality and potential future challenges.
- Boulder has one of the nation's most highly educated workforces.
- The city continues to be an employment center for Boulder County and has experienced job growth since 2010.
- Boulder is a center for business innovation and startup activity.

## Good Governance

The Boulder Community Survey results indicate that Boulder is doing well in terms of many community goals. It is a safe, healthy, accessible/connected, and desirable place to live. Over the course of many decades, local policy decisions have contributed to this high quality of life.

### Key Good Governance Trends

- Based on the Boulder Community Survey, long-term trends have generally been steady or upward with respect to the overall direction and effectiveness of Boulder city government.
- Public impressions of city employees have also increased somewhat over time.
- Voters in Boulder County turn out for elections at approximately the same rate as Colorado voters in general.
- The city is fiscally responsible as evidenced by its consistently high bond ratings and annual maintenance spending.

# LIVABLE COMMUNITY

The sustainability framework defines a livable community as one that is safe, has diverse housing options, is well-maintained, provides reliable services, and is inclusive for all. The BVCP addresses livability with a variety of goals and policies on the built environment, housing, and community well-being. The data presented in this section addresses these themes by presenting data on population characteristics, income, housing, land use, and quality of life.

## KEY LIVABILITY TRENDS

- Boulder is the largest city in Boulder county, and since 2010 its housing units have grown at a rate of approximately 0.8% a year, and its population at a rate of approximately 1.4% a year.
- The overall population has not significantly aged or diversified since 2000. However, an aging population is expected to be a predominant trend over the next 25 years.
- The presence of a large university student population affects citywide statistics, making the city as a whole younger and less affluent than its neighbors and the region. When the effect of the student population is accounted for, the opposite is often true.
- Boulder continues to grow and add housing units, with a majority of new units being attached and multifamily units.
- Home prices in Boulder have long been higher than the region and are rising fast in the post-recession economy.
- There is very little undeveloped land remaining within the city (less than 1% of the total parcel acreage), meaning that future growth will occur primarily through redevelopment of existing properties.

## POPULATION

### 2015 POPULATION ESTIMATES<sup>1</sup>

City of Boulder **104,810**

Boulder Service Area **116,840**

### 2040 POPULATION PROJECTIONS<sup>2</sup>

City of Boulder **123,000**

Boulder Service Area **136,100**

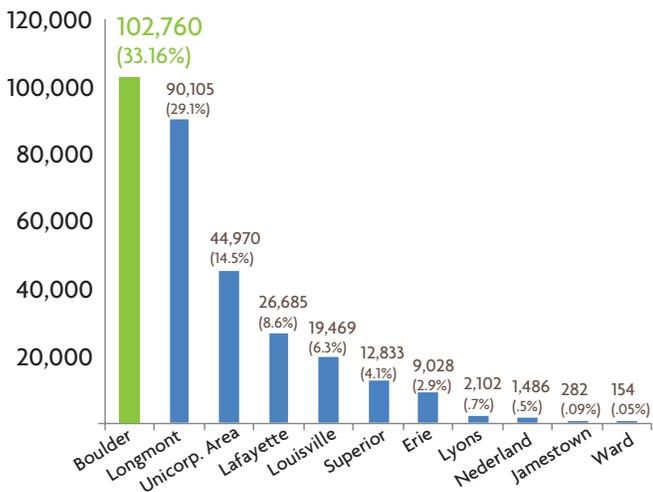
### 2030 UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ENROLLMENT<sup>3</sup>

2014 Enrollment **30,000**

2030 Enrollment Projected **36,500**

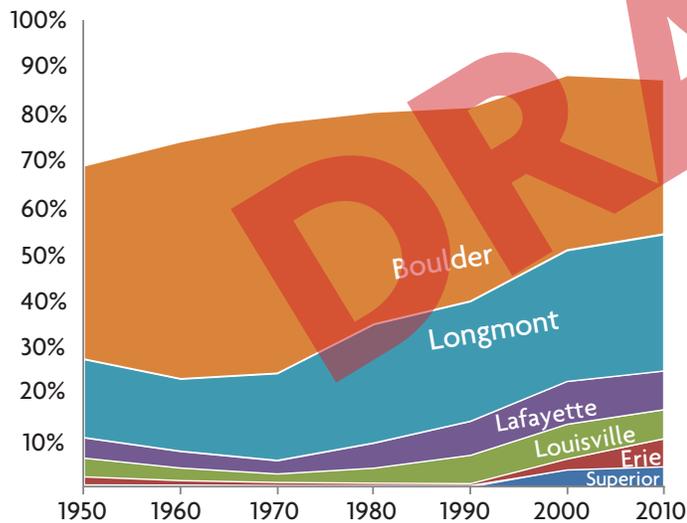
According to the University of Colorado's *Flagship 2030* report, the university's enrollment may grow by about 6,500 students by 2030.

## 2013 BOULDER COUNTY POPULATION BY MUNICIPALITY<sup>4</sup>



Boulder is the largest city in Boulder County, with approximately one-third of the total county population.

## POPULATION SHARE IN BOULDER COUNTY OVER TIME<sup>5</sup>

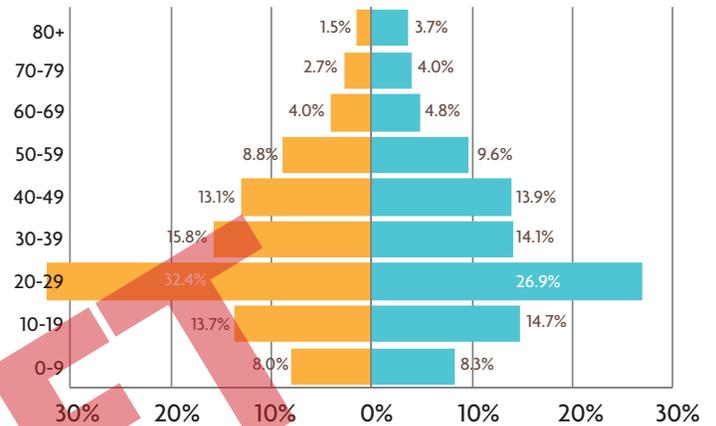


Boulder's population is growing, but nearby municipalities have been growing faster. As a result, the population of the City of Boulder represents a diminishing percentage of the total Boulder County population over time, from about 50% in the 1960s to about 33% today.

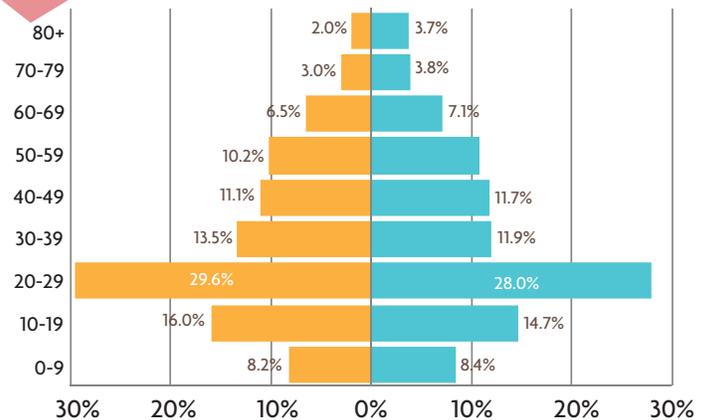
## AGE DISTRIBUTION<sup>6</sup>



Boulder 2000

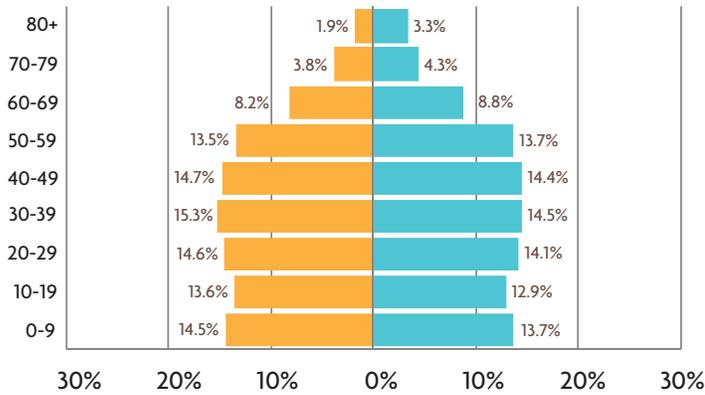


Boulder 2012



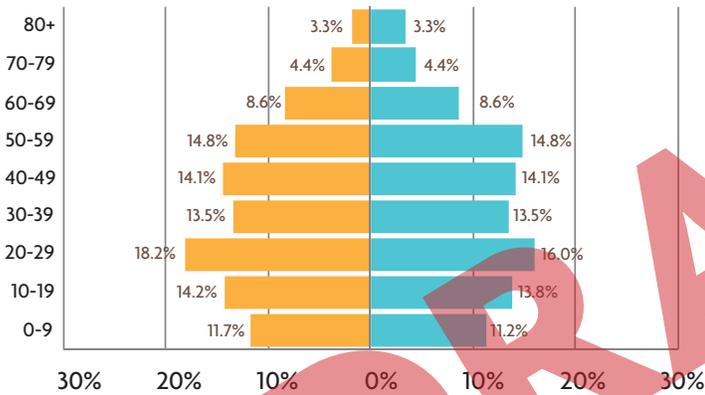
The "population pyramids" shown above and on the next page depict the age and gender distribution of the population at specific points in time. A comparison of the 2000 and 2012 pyramids for Boulder show that the city's age distribution changed only minimally during that time.

### Denver- Aurora- Boulder Consolidated Statistical Area 2012

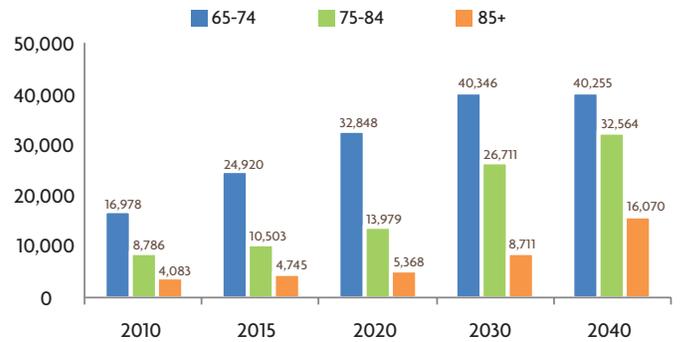


The City of Boulder's age distribution (shown on previous page) skews toward college-age residents, but is otherwise similar to the county and the region.

### Boulder County 2012

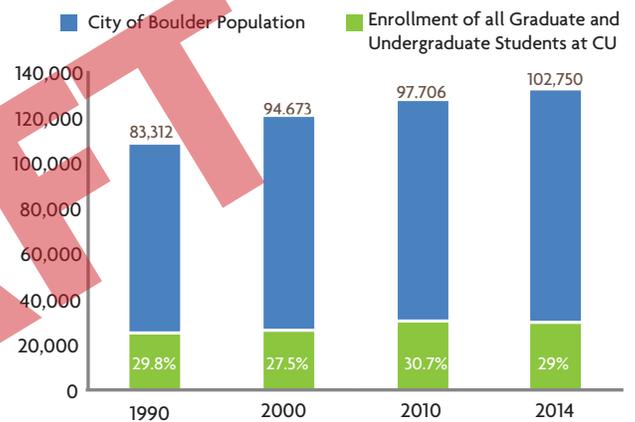


### BOULDER COUNTY 2010-2040 POPULATION 65+8



The current population of people in Boulder County that are 65 or older (40,168) is expected to more than double by year 2040 (88,829).

### UNIVERSITY STUDENT POPULATION OVER TIME9

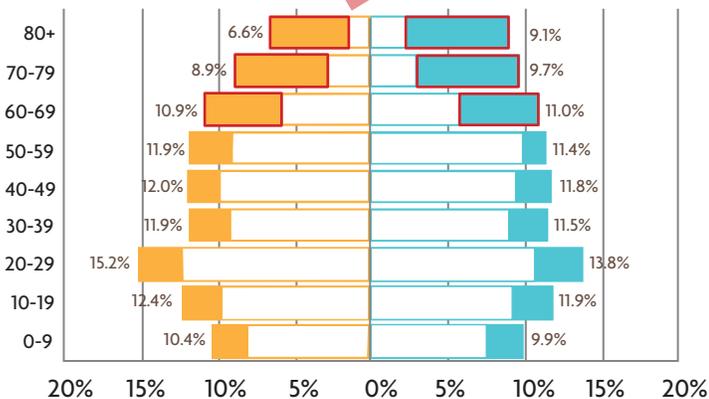


University of Colorado students have comprised approximately 30% of Boulder's population for many years.

### BOULDER RACE AND ETHNICITY10

Race/Ethnicity	2000	2013
White	83,627 88.3%	89,467 89.1%
Black/African Am.	1,154 1.2%	913 0.9%
Am. Indian	450 0.5%	266 0.3%
Asian	3,806 4.0%	4,411 4.4%
Pacific Islander	48 0.1%	42 0.0%
Other Race	3,318 3.5%	2,373 2.4%
Two or More Races	2,270 2.4%	2,891 2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,673 100%</b>	<b>100,363 100%</b>
Hispanic or Latino	7,801 8.2%	8,817 8.8%
Not Hispanic	86,872 91.8%	91,546 91.2%

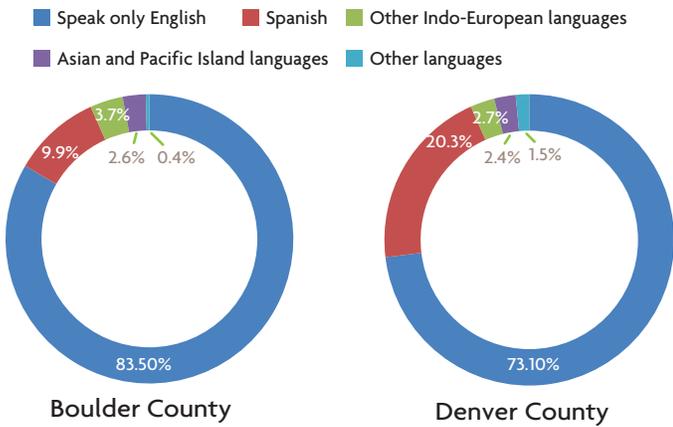
### Boulder County 2040 7



2040 county-level population estimates from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs show a dramatic shift in age distribution predicted over the next 25 years, especially for age groups that are 60 and older.

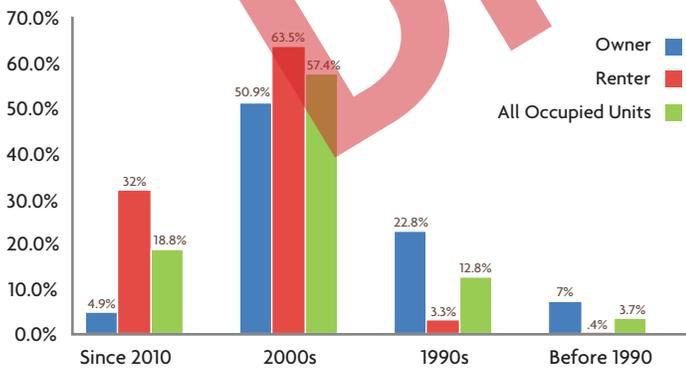
Although the population has grown, Boulder's racial and ethnic composition has changed minimally since 2000.

### LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME<sup>10</sup>



English is the predominant language spoken at home in Boulder County. A comparison to nearby Denver County shows a similar composition, except that Spanish-speaking households are about 10% more prevalent in Denver, and English-speaking households about 10% less prevalent.

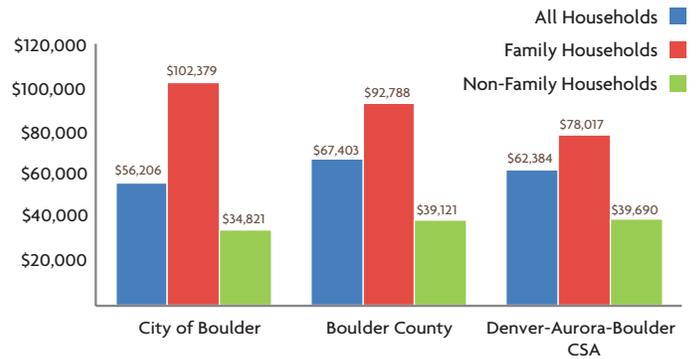
### YEAR BOULDER HOUSEHOLDER MOVED INTO UNIT<sup>12</sup>



Most Boulder householders moved into their current residence after 2000. For those that moved in since 2010, it is far more common for them to rent than to own.

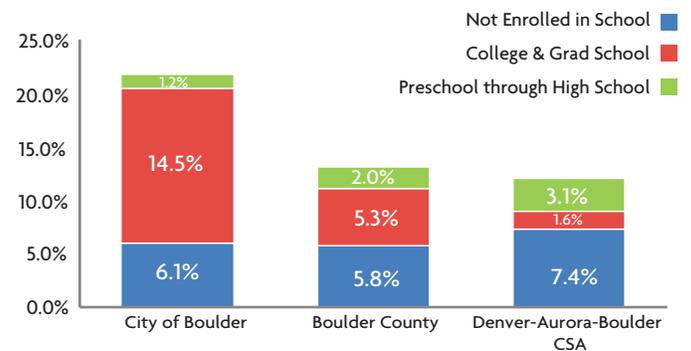
## \$ INCOME

### \$ MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME<sup>13</sup>



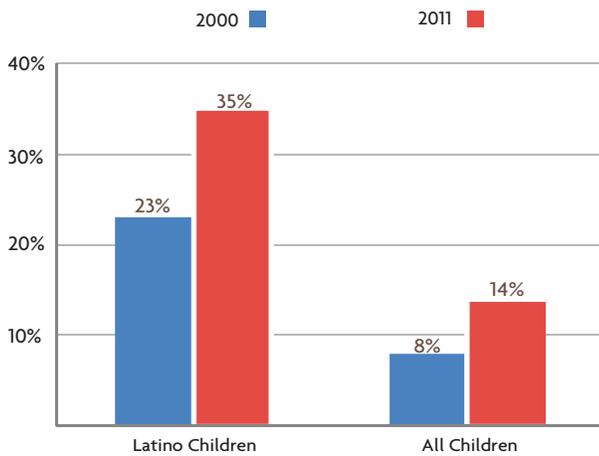
Boulder's median household income (shown in blue) is lower than both the county and the region. This is largely because of a concentration of non-family households (shown in green) which include student households and have much lower incomes than families (shown in red). By contrast, Boulder's family household income is higher than the county's, and significantly higher than the region's. In Boulder, the median income for family households is \$67,558 higher than for non-family households. Compare this to the Denver Metro region, where the income gap between family households and non-family households is much smaller (\$38,327).

### \$ POVERTY BY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT STATUS<sup>14</sup>



Nearly 22% of Boulder residents live in poverty, a much higher percentage than in the county (13%) or the region (12%). Breaking down this statistic by school enrollment status shows that most of Boulder's residents who live below the poverty line are enrolled in college or graduate school. Adjusting for this, the non-college residents in poverty in Boulder (7.3%) is comparable to the percent of non-college residents in poverty in the county (7.8%), and is lower than the region (10.5%).

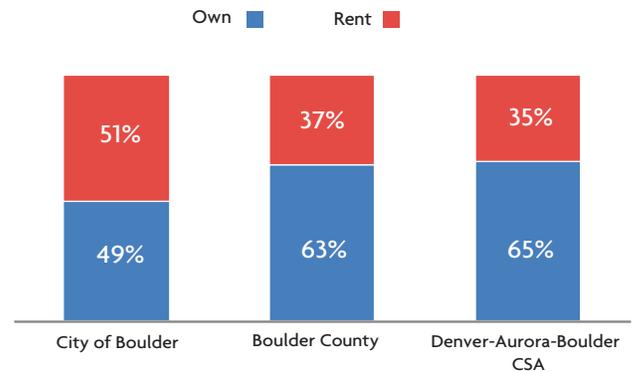
## BOULDER COUNTY CHILDREN IN POVERTY<sup>15</sup>



Poverty among Latino children in Boulder County is higher than among Boulder County children in general. In 2011, Latino children were more than twice as likely to live in poverty. Poverty among children increased between 2000 and 2011, going from 8% to 14%. Poverty among Latino children increased even more during that time, going from 23% to 35%.

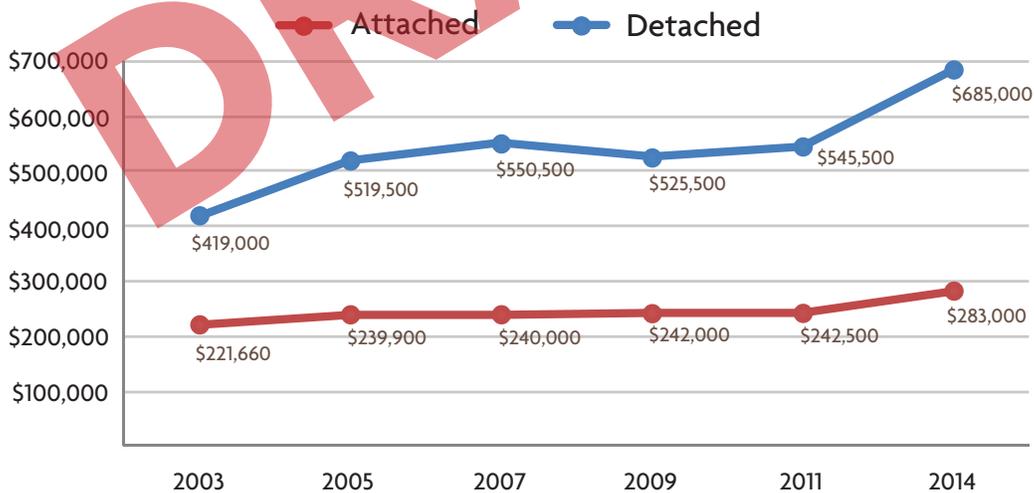
## HOUSING

### OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS OWN VERSUS RENT<sup>16</sup>



Boulder's housing stock is nearly evenly split between owners and renters, whereas in the county and region owners occupy close to two-thirds of the housing stock and renters one-third.

### BOULDER MEDIAN HOME PRICE BY YEAR<sup>17</sup>



Housing prices in Boulder are higher than the region, and have seen especially steep price increases in the post-recession economy as demand continues to outpace supply. In 2014, the median single family detached home price in Boulder was \$685,000. Attached housing products were more affordable at \$283,000. By contrast, the median price for all housing types in Metro Denver in 2014 (not shown in this chart) was \$306,900<sup>18</sup>.

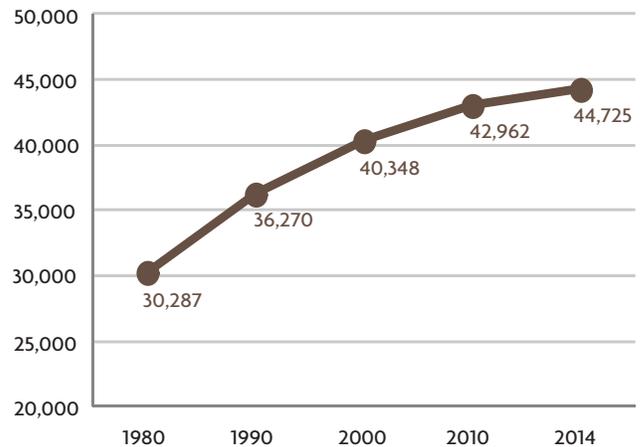
## CITY OF BOULDER AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM<sup>19</sup>

**3,586** AFFORDABLE UNITS



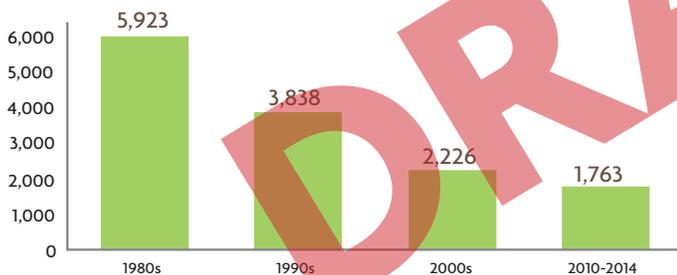
As of August 2015, there are 3,586 units in Boulder's affordable housing program. This represents 8% of the total units in the city, 2% away from the city's goal of making 10% of all housing units affordable.

## BOULDER HOUSING UNIT GROWTH OVER TIME<sup>17</sup>



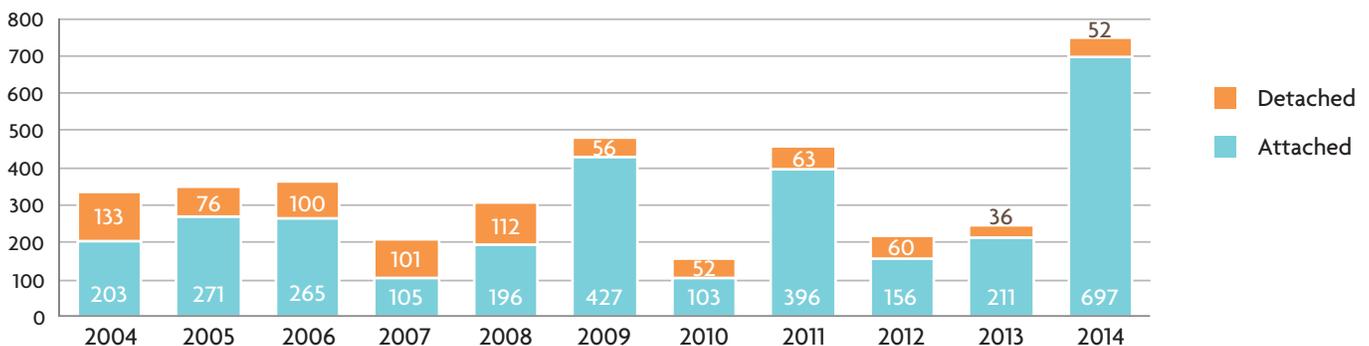
Boulder's housing stock has grown by about 48% since 1980. Annual average growth rates for housing units were 2.0% in the 1980s, 1.1% in the 1990s, 0.6% in the 2000s, and 0.8% so far in the 2010s.

## BOULDER NET INCREASE IN DWELLING UNITS BY DECADE<sup>17</sup>



The city added a decreasing number of dwelling units each decade from the 1980s to the 2000s. As of December 31, 2014, approximately 1,760 units have been added so far this decade, representing an increased pace of growth from what was observed in the 2000s. Additionally, a significant number of residential units currently under construction are expected to be completed in 2015 and 2016.

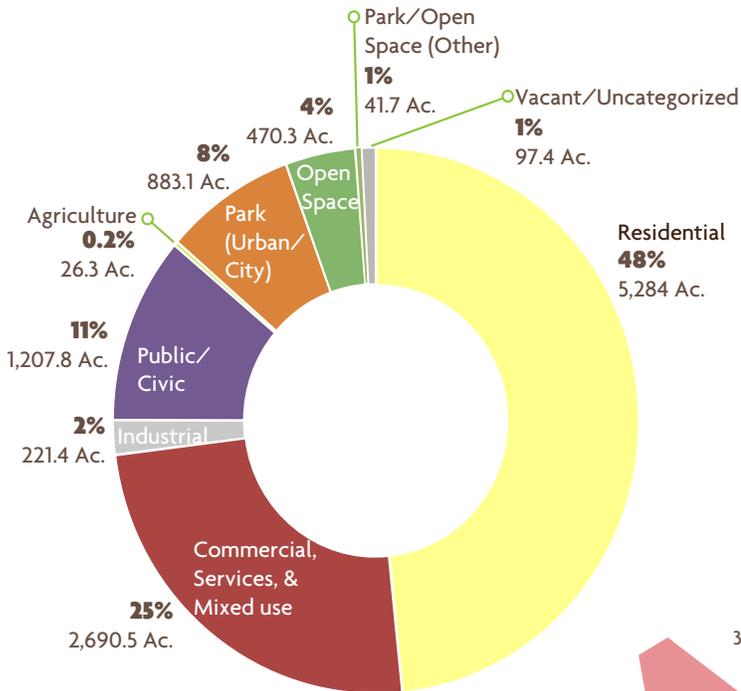
## NEW RESIDENTIAL UNITS BY TYPE<sup>17</sup>



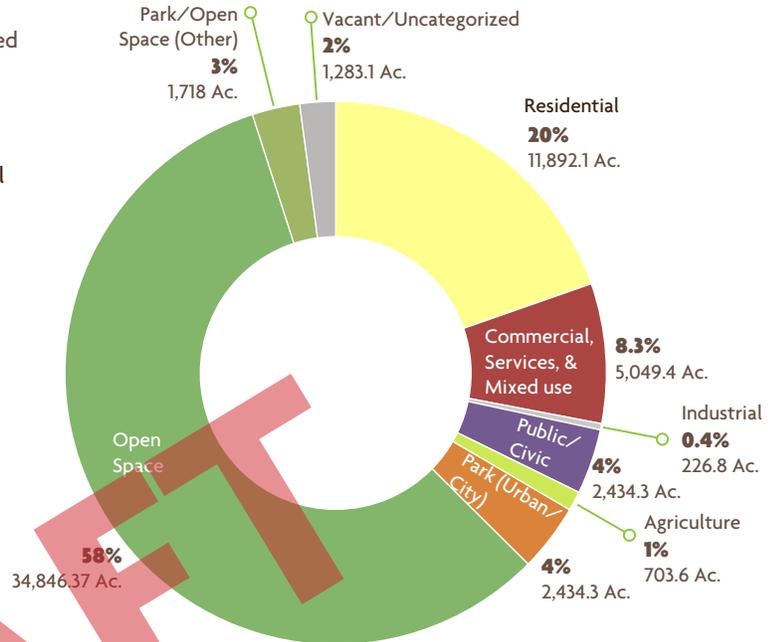
An analysis of new residential units by type shows that, for new construction, attached units are more common than single family detached homes. Although the overall unit mix that is constructed varies from one year to the next, since 2004 approximately 78% of new residential units have been attached and 22% detached.

## LAND USE

### EXISTING LAND USE BOULDER URBANIZED AREA (AREA I)<sup>20</sup>



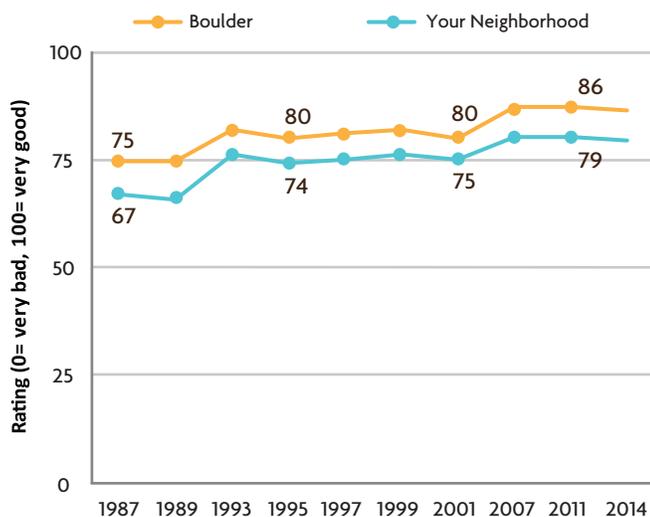
### EXISTING LAND USE BVCP PLANNING AREA (AREAS I, II, III)<sup>20</sup>



The Boulder Valley planning area is divided into three major areas. Area I is the urbanized area within the City of Boulder. Area II is under county jurisdiction, but where annexation to the city can be considered and where new urban development may only occur coincident with availability of adequate facilities and services. Area III is the remaining area in the Boulder Valley, generally under county jurisdiction and where the city and county intend to preserve existing rural land uses and character. As a result of this long-standing framework, Boulder is a city of about 25.8 square miles surrounded by an open space system of about 71 square miles, and as such the land use mix of the BVCP planning area is significantly different from the mix within the urbanized area, as shown above. Less than 1% of vacant land remains in the city.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

### OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE<sup>21</sup>



Respondents to the Boulder Community Survey have consistently rated the quality of life in the city in the top 25% of the rating scale. Although these ratings have fluctuated somewhat from year-to-year, they have generally increased over time.

# LIVABLE COMMUNITY

## SOURCES

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1. 2015 Boulder Community Profile; Estimate City of Boulder Community Planning and Sustainability
2. 2040 Projection City of Boulder Community Planning and Sustainability
3. CU “Flagship 2030” page 64; Planning, Budget and Analysis- Fall Enrollment, University of Colorado at Boulder
4. Colorado State Demography Office, Population Data
5. Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Historical Census
6. 2012 ACS 5 year estimates (Table SO101)
7. Colorado Department of Local Affairs, [https://dola.colorado.gov/demog\\_webapps/pagCategory.jsf](https://dola.colorado.gov/demog_webapps/pagCategory.jsf)
8. Census and State Demography Office
9. Planning, Budget and Analysis- Fall Enrollment, University of Colorado at Boulder and 2010 & 2014; Estimate, Department of Community Planning and Sustainability
10. Census 2000 SF1 table QTP3 and 2013 ACS 5 yr tables B02001 (Race) and B03002 (hispanic origin)
11. 2013 ACS 5 year estimates (Table S1601)
12. 2012 ACS 5 year estimates (Table S2502)
13. 2012 ACS 5 year estimates (Table S1903)
14. 2012 ACS 5 year estimates (Table B14006)
15. Boulder County Trends (2013): The Community Foundation’s Report on Key Indicators, page 56
16. 2012 ACS 5 year estimates (Table S2502)
17. 2015 Boulder Community Profile (updated 8/20/15)
18. Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce 2015 Economic Forecast for Metro Denver; page 30
19. 2015 Boulder Affordable Housing Profile (updated 8/20/2015)
20. City of Boulder Analysis Using County Tax Assessor Building Use Classifications
21. 2014 City of Boulder Community Survey

### Helpful Links

- US Census American Community Survey
- Colorado Department of Local Affairs
- CU Boulder “Just the Facts”
- 2015 Boulder Community Profile
- 2015 Boulder Affordable Housing Profile
- 2015 BVCP Subcommunity Fact Sheets
- 2014 Boulder Community Survey
- Denver Regional Equity Atlas

# ACCESSIBLE & CONNECTED COMMUNITY

A sustainable community addresses its transportation and communications network and travel choices with mobility options, infrastructure, regional multi-modal connections, and communication systems. The BVCP includes goals and policies to address a complete transportation system that accommodates all modes, is integrated with land use, minimizes impacts to air quality, and ensures land use compatibility with airport operations. Additionally, the Transportation Master Plan supports the BVCP’s goals and identifies measurable objectives. The data analysis presented in this chapter focuses on these related trends as well as Internet access.

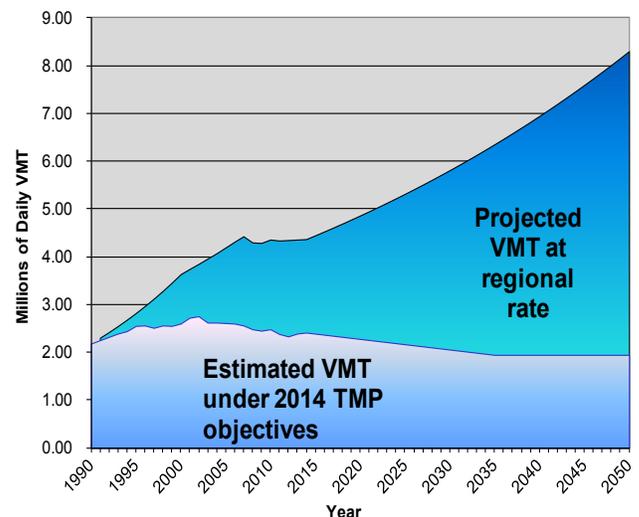
## KEY ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY TRENDS

- Boulder’s daily vehicle miles traveled hit a peak in the mid-2000s and haven’t grown appreciably since then, despite continued increases in both population and jobs.
- The mode share of single occupant vehicle (SOV) travel by Boulder residents has shown a steady decline over time that is anticipated to continue. In contrast, the SOV mode share of non resident employee (in-commuters) has not changed and is identified as a challenge to reaching city goals.
- Boulder’s status as an employment center makes regional transportation choices especially important in meeting the community’s accessibility/connectivity and greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Boulderites bus, bike, and walk in higher numbers than do people in the region.
- 26% of Boulder residents currently live in a 15-minute neighborhood.
- Nearly all Boulder Community Survey respondents report having Internet access.

## 0000 VEHICLES MILES TRAVELED

### 0000 ESTIMATED VMT COMPARED TO TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE!

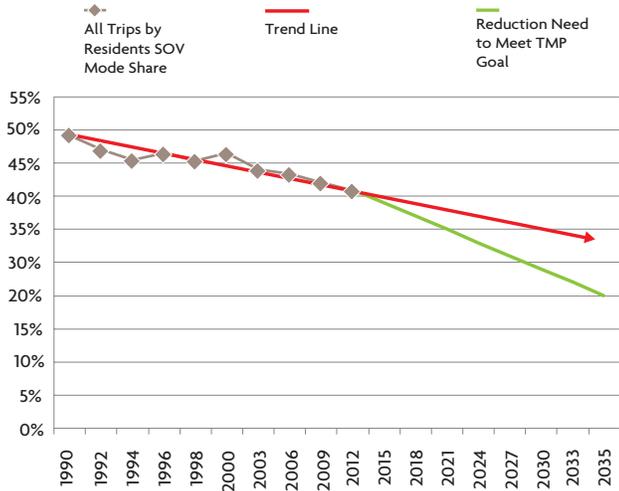
This figure shows in light blue the estimated daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) in the Boulder Valley from 1990 to 2014 based on modeling and vehicle count data. The 1996 Transportation Master Plan (TMP) called for returning VMT to 1994 levels which has been achieved. The 2014 TMP calls for reducing daily VMT 20 percent by 2035 to contribute to the city’s greenhouse gas reduction goals, and the graph represents continuous progress toward this objective between 2015 and 2035. In contrast, the darker blue represents the calculated daily VMT that would occur if vehicle traffic in the Boulder Valley grew at the regional rate of VMT increase.





## MODE SHARE

### SINGLE OCCUPANT VEHICLE MODE SHARE<sup>2</sup>

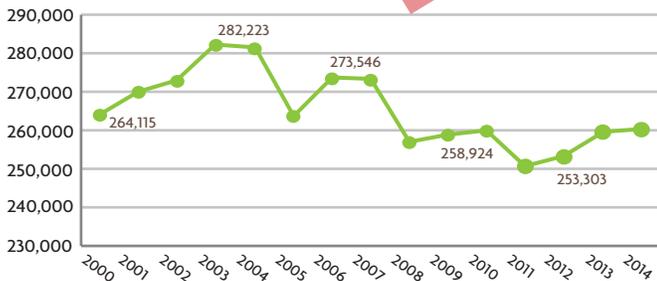


The mode share of single occupant vehicle travel by Boulder residents has shown a steady decline over time, as residents change their travel behavior and make use of other modes. The Transportation Master Plan has a goal of reducing single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips to 20% of all trips by residents by 2035. Additional reduction in SOV travel is needed in the years ahead to meet that goal.



## REGIONAL NETWORK

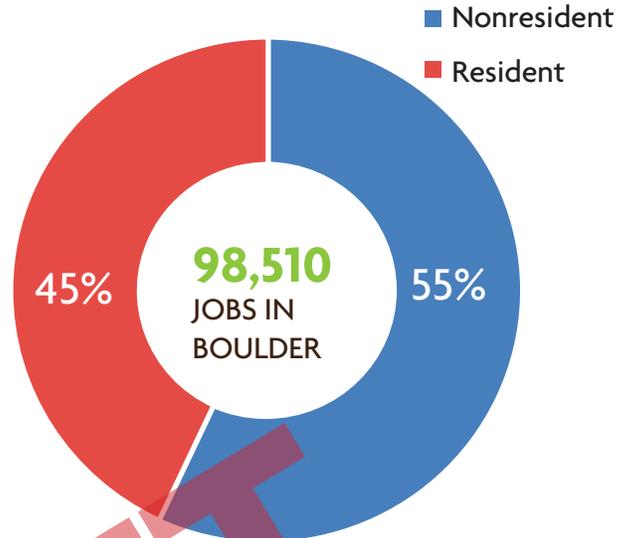
### TOTAL VEHICLES PER DAY ON ROADS LEADING INTO/OUT OF BOULDER<sup>3</sup>



The impact of changing travel behaviors can be seen in this chart of total vehicles per day on the 18 roads that lead into and out of the Boulder Valley. Since the peak travel year in 2003, the total number of vehicles per day on roads leading into/out of the Boulder Valley has decreased by 7.7% as of 2014. This overall decline coincided with population and job increases during that same time frame. A trend of stable vehicles per day has been observed since 2008.

## COMMUTING

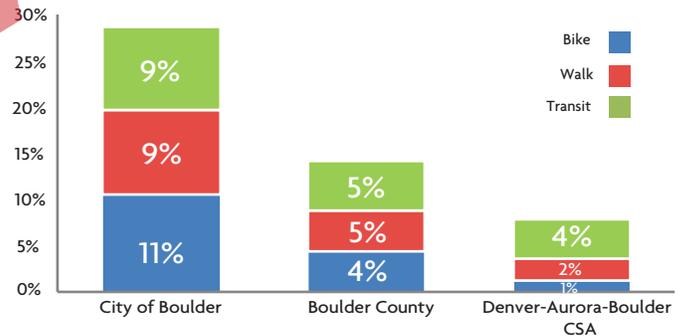
### EMPLOYEE COMMUTING PATTERNS<sup>4</sup>



There are approximately 98,510 jobs in the City of Boulder. Of those, it is estimated that about 55% are held by people who do not reside in the city.



### MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK<sup>5</sup>



A relatively high percentage of Boulder residents bike, bus, and walk to work.



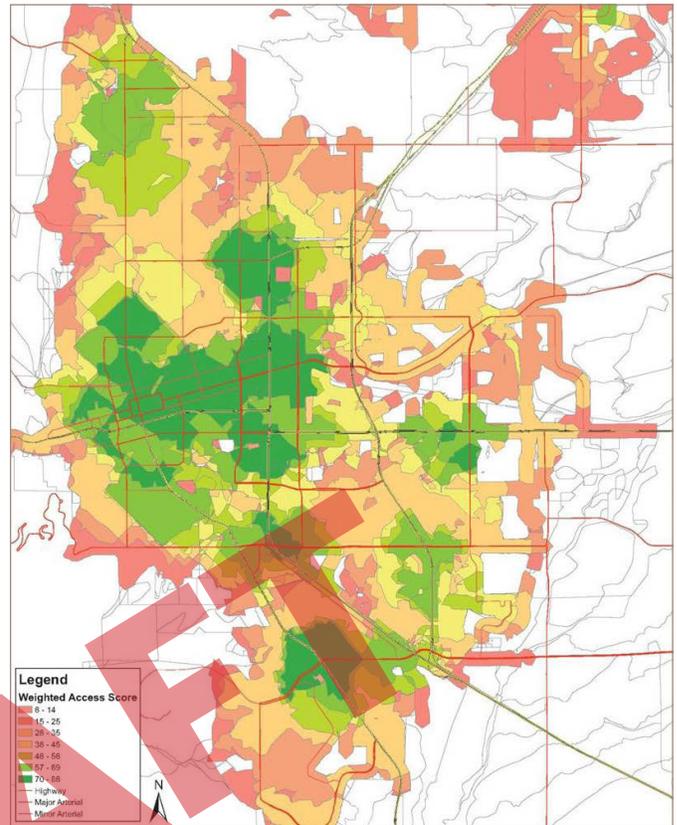
## NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS

# 26%

A neighborhood access analysis conducted as part of the Transportation Master Plan (2014) found that 26% of Boulder residents currently live in a neighborhood where they can access a full range of goods and services with a 15 minute walk. The TMP sets a goal of increasing this number to 80% by 2035<sup>6</sup>.

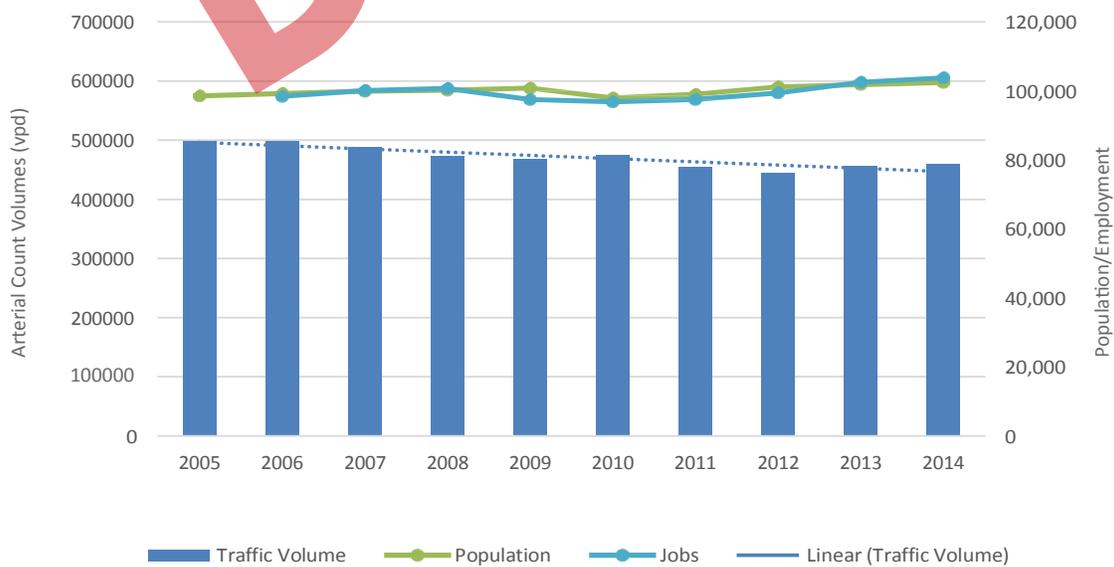
## NEIGHBORHOOD ACCESS TOOL<sup>7</sup>

The Transportation Master Plan’s Neighborhood Access Tool demonstrated that some parts of town have better access to goods and services within walking distance than others. Access is determined by the availability of transportation facilities and destinations. With largely complete transportation facilities, the lack of destinations is the largest influence in many areas of the city. Areas shown in dark green have the highest access score, and areas in dark red have the lowest access score.



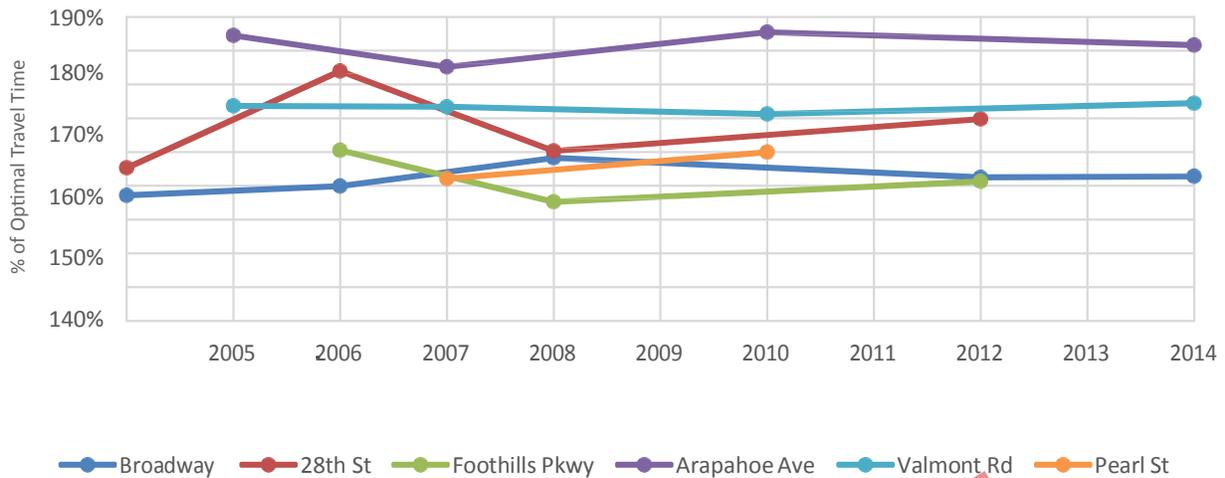
## GROWTH & CONGESTION

### ARTERIAL TRAFFIC VOLUMES COMPARED TO POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT<sup>8</sup>



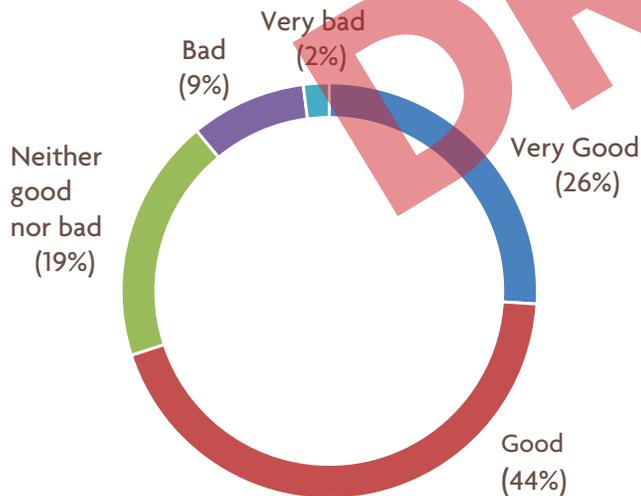
Over the past ten years, traffic volumes on Boulder’s arterial streets have declined at a rate of approximately 1.1% per year even as the city’s population and employment have grown during that same time period.

## TRAVEL TIME ON MAJOR CORRIDORS<sup>9</sup>



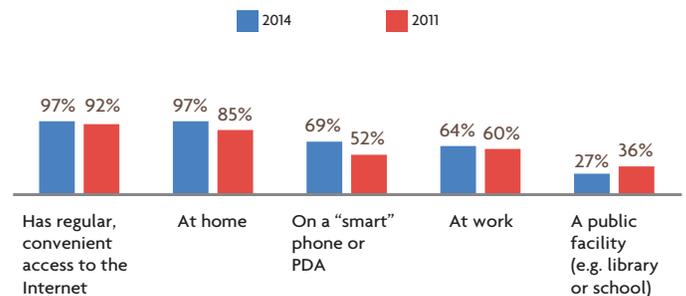
This graph compares the results of the travel time runs to the theoretical minimum travel time based on the speed limit of each corridor. It shows that travel times on major cross-town corridors have remained relatively steady over the past 10 years. Travel time studies were completed for Broadway, 28th Street, and Foothills Parkway in 2012 and for Arapahoe Avenue, Valmont Road, and Broadway in 2014. The latest travel time studies provided results consistent with past studies, revealing no significant changes to the time it takes to traverse these corridors.

## EASE OF TRAVEL<sup>10</sup>



When asked to rate the overall ease of getting to the places they usually visit, 7 in 10 Boulder Community Survey respondents viewed this as “very good” or “good.”

## INTERNET ACCESS<sup>11</sup>



Nearly all Boulder Community Survey respondents said they had regular, convenient access to the Internet. The most common way respondents accessed the Internet was at home (97%). About 7 in 10 respondents said they accessed the Internet on a “smart” phone or PDA and two-thirds accessed the Internet at work. Regular Internet access was available at school or a library for 27% of respondents. Compared to 2011, more survey respondents in 2014 had accessed the Internet at home and on a “smart” phone or PDA, and fewer reported having access to the Internet at school or a library.

## **ACCESSIBLE & CONNECTED COMMUNITY SOURCES**

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1. Public Works Transportation Metrics
2. 1990-2012 City of Boulder Modal Shift Reports (Travel Diary of Boulder Residents)
3. Boulder Valley Yearly Count Program
4. 2015 Boulder Community Profile
5. 2012 ACS 5 year estimates (Table S0801)
6. 2014 Transportation Master Plan, page 3-6
7. 2014 Transportation Master Plan, page 5-7
8. June 8 Transportation Advisory Board Memo [https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Agenda\\_6\\_TMP\\_and\\_Metrics-1-201506021555.pdf](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Agenda_6_TMP_and_Metrics-1-201506021555.pdf)
9. June 8 Transportation Advisory Board Memo [https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Agenda\\_6\\_TMP\\_and\\_Metrics-1-201506021555.pdf](https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/Agenda_6_TMP_and_Metrics-1-201506021555.pdf)
10. 2014 Boulder Community Survey, page 19
11. 2014 Boulder Community Survey, page 21

### **Helpful Links**

- 2014 City of Boulder Transportation Master Plan
- 2015 Boulder Community Profile
- State of the System Report
- Transportation Report on Progress
- US Census American Community Survey

**DRAFT**

# ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

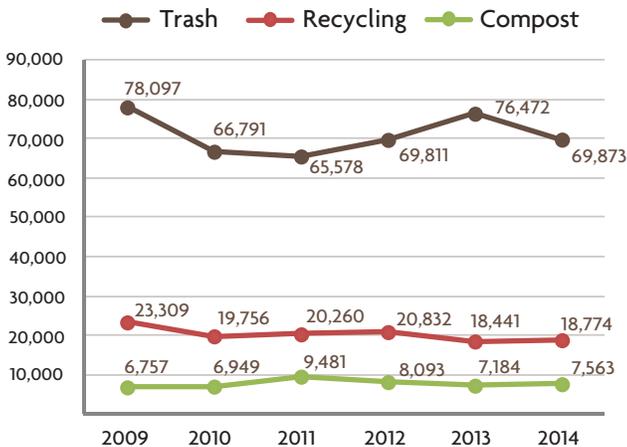
Boulder has a long-standing commitment to environmental sustainability and continues to be a national leader in sustainability practices and policies. The sustainability framework focuses on natural resource and energy conservation, ecological balance, and mitigating threats to the environment. The BVCP addresses the topic of environmental sustainability with goals and policies on the natural environment, energy, waste, and climate. The data analysis presented here focuses on trends related to waste, greenhouse gas emissions, energy use, water use, biodiversity and open space conservation.

## KEY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY TRENDS

- Recent waste generation trends for landfill, recycling, and composting are relatively flat in the recent past, with the single family residential sector diverting the highest percentage of its waste from the landfill, and the commercial sector generating the most waste.
- While the residential sector has seen a decrease in per-household energy use since 2005, the commercial and industrial sectors have seen the opposite trend in terms of both energy use intensity and per-employee consumption.
- Decreases in per capita water consumption have reduced Boulder’s annual total water use to levels last seen in the 1970s and 1980s, when population and employment were both much lower than they are today.
- The community’s open space and mountain parks are an important reservoir of biodiversity. The city’s open space conservation efforts have preserved approximately 45,500 acres of land since the 1800s.
- Recent studies indicate temperatures are likely to warm from 2-6 degrees F over the next 20-25 years, and extreme weather events are likely to increase. These climatic changes, in addition to pesticide use and invasive species influx, are expected to impact biological systems and habitats.

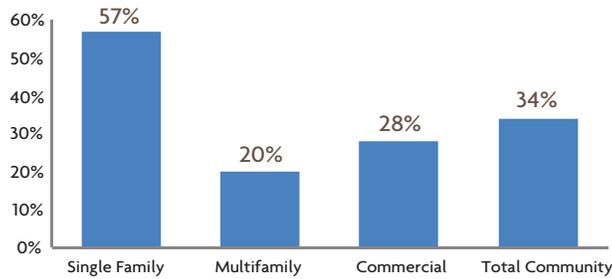
## WASTE

### ANNUAL WASTE GENERATION BY TYPE (TONS)<sup>1</sup>



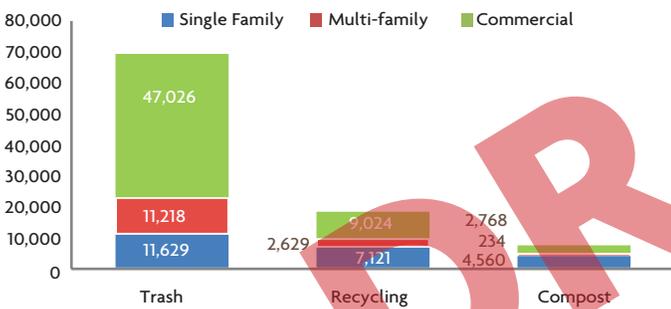
This chart on the left shows annual waste generation by type: trash/landfill, recycling, and composting. Overall waste generation among the three types of waste has been relatively steady since the curbside composting program began in 2009, with trash generation declining overall during that time. The spike in trash generated in 2013 is likely attributable to the floods that occurred in September of that year.

## PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL WASTE DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL (2014)<sup>1</sup>

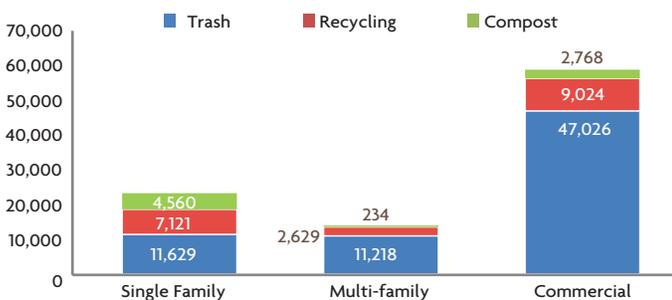


Diversion of waste from the landfill varies significantly by sector, with single family residential having the highest diversion rate, and multifamily residential having the lowest. These diversion rate calculations include material collected by haulers as well as additional materials such as yard and wood waste drop off, hard-to-recycle materials, hazardous waste materials, and construction and demolition materials. Implementation of the recently-approved Universal Zero Waste Ordinance will improve diversion rates in the coming years.

## TONS OF WASTE GENERATED BY TYPE (2014)<sup>1</sup>



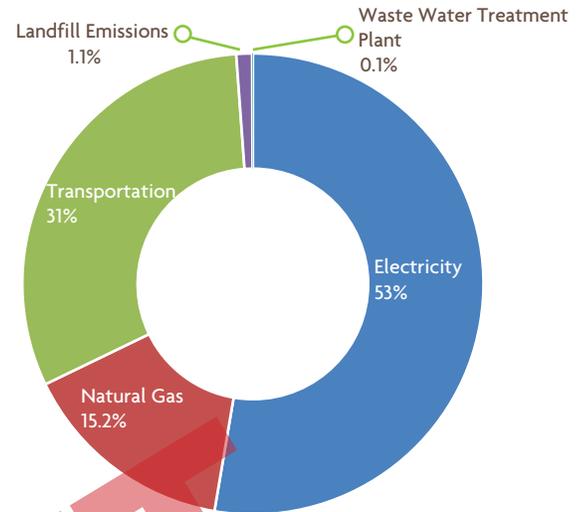
## TONS OF WASTE GENERATED BY SECTOR (2014)<sup>1</sup>



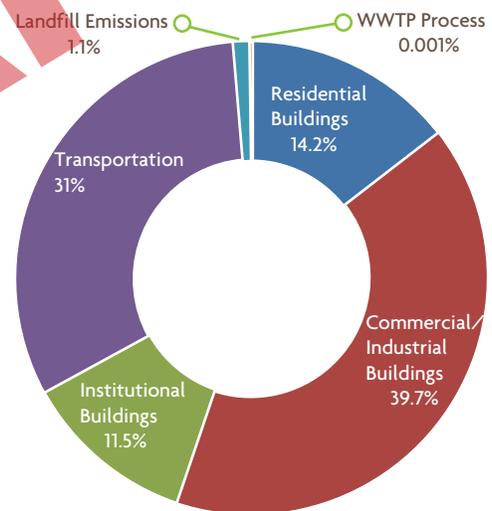
These charts depicting tons of waste generated are just for materials collected by haulers and do not include other waste types. They show that far more waste is thrown away in the landfill than is recycled or composted, and that waste production varies by sector with commercial uses being the largest waste producer.

## GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

### 2012 GHG EMISSIONS BY SOURCE<sup>2</sup>



### 2012 GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR<sup>2</sup>



About 68% of Boulder's greenhouse gas emissions are attributable to buildings, 31% are attributable to transportation, and the remainder to landfills and other sources. Within the category of buildings, residential accounts for 26% of the emissions, commercial/industrial 57%, and institutional buildings 17%.

## ENERGY CONSERVATION AND USE

### 2005 & 2012 ENERGY USE BY SECTOR<sup>3</sup>

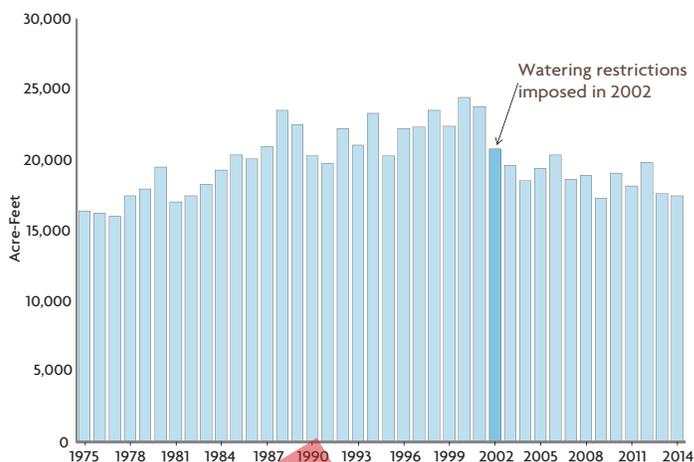
	Units	2005	2012	% Change
Residential Electricity per Household	kWh/HH	6,263	6,035	-4%
Residential Natural Gas per Household	dTh/HH	47.9	45.5	-5%
Commercial & Industrial Energy Use Intensity*	kBtu/sf	161	188	16%
Commercial & Industrial Electricity per employee*	kWh/FTE	8,997	9,858	10%
Commercial & Industrial Natural Gas per employee*	dTh/FTE	23	28	23%

\* Excludes CU Boulder

From 2005 to 2012, Boulder reduced residential energy use per household. This reflects, in part, the impact of climate programs on waste reduction and residential energy efficiency (zero waste programs and facilities, Energy Smart residential and Smart Regs). In the Commercial and Industrial sector, total energy use intensity (energy per square foot of floor area) and energy use per employee has increased. Despite a warmer winter in 2012 than 2005, natural gas use in the C&I sector increased even more than electricity. This indicates that the increase can likely be attributed to process loads in the industrial sector, which are not weather-dependent.

## WATER USE

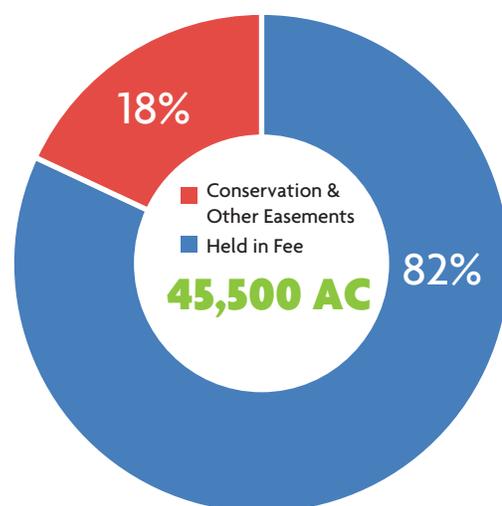
### BOULDER'S ANNUAL TOTAL AND PER CAPITA TREATED WATER USE<sup>4</sup>



Boulder's annual water use is generally decreasing over time, and is now at levels last seen in the 1970s and 1980s. This is happening at the same time that population and jobs are increasing. This is possible because of decreases in per capita water consumption.

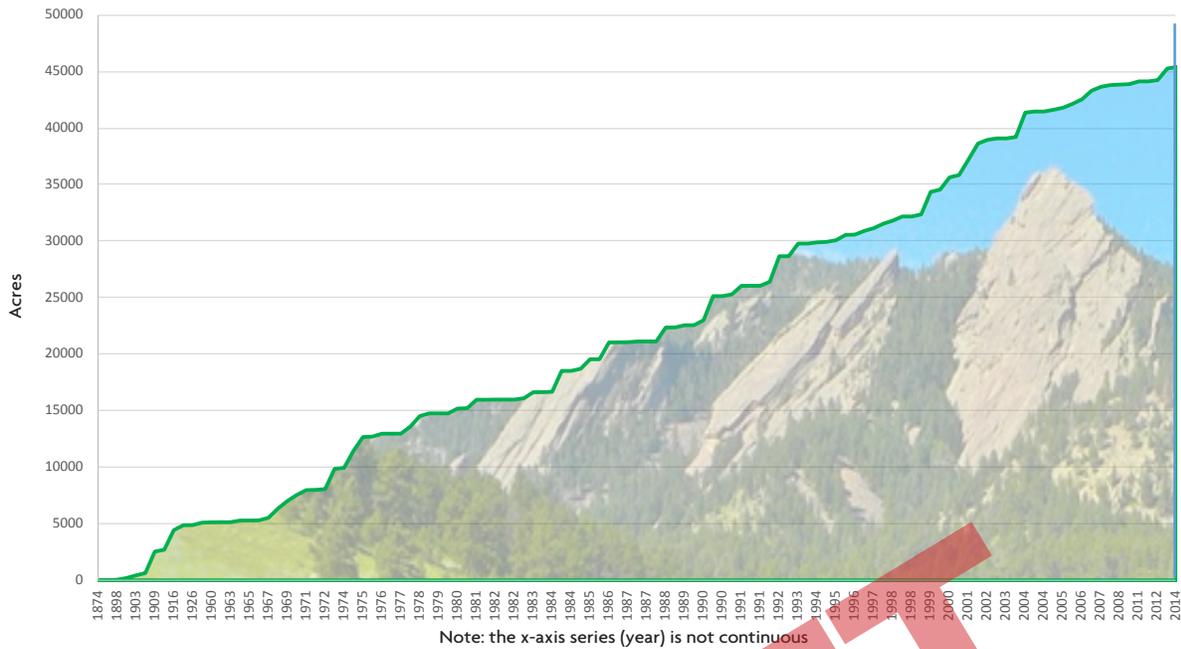
## OPEN SPACE

### BOULDER OSMP LAND HOLDINGS BY TYPE (2015)<sup>5</sup>



The current total acreage of city OSMP ownership is approximately 45,500 acres (71 sq. miles). Of that amount, 37,300 acres is held in fee (owned- sometimes jointly with other agencies), and 8,200 acres is held as conservation and other easements (again sometimes jointly with other agencies).

## BOULDER OSMP PROPERTY ACQUISITION OVER TIME<sup>5</sup>



The roots of Boulder’s robust open space system date back to 1875-1929, when the city acquired over 5,000 acres including Chautauqua, Buckingham Park (in Left Hand Canyon) and much of the mountain backdrop. Continued acquisition efforts since those early years have added another 40,500 acres to the system.

## BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE LAND HOLDINGS BY TYPE<sup>6</sup>

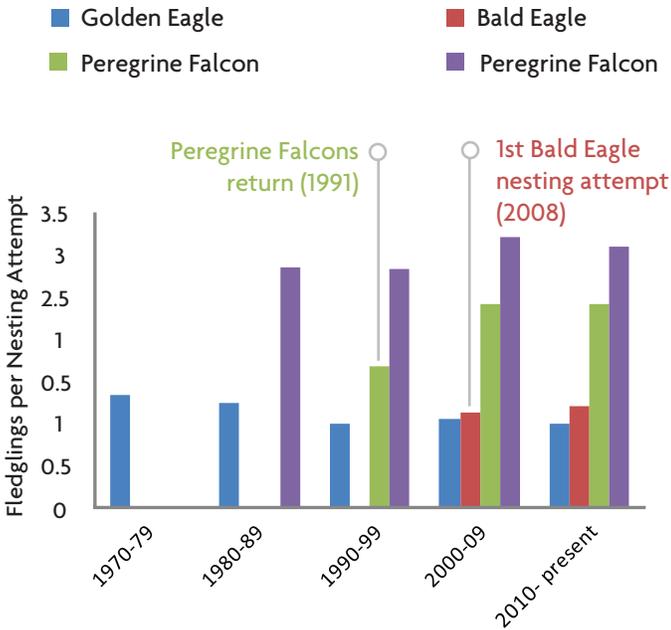
- County Conservation Easements (privately owned land)
- County Open Space (publicly owned or leased land)



There are more than 102,000 acres of land in Boulder County’s parks and open space system. Of these, approximately 62,000 acres (60%) are either publicly owned, leased from the State Land Board, or held in the form of access or trail easements. The remaining 40,000 acres in the system (40% of the total) are privately-owned lands with county conservation easements.

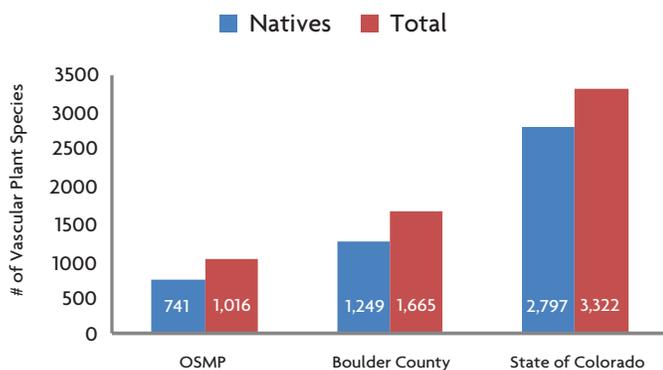
## BIODIVERSITY AND OPEN SPACE LAND MANAGEMENT

### RAPTOR NESTING ON OSMP LANDS<sup>5</sup>



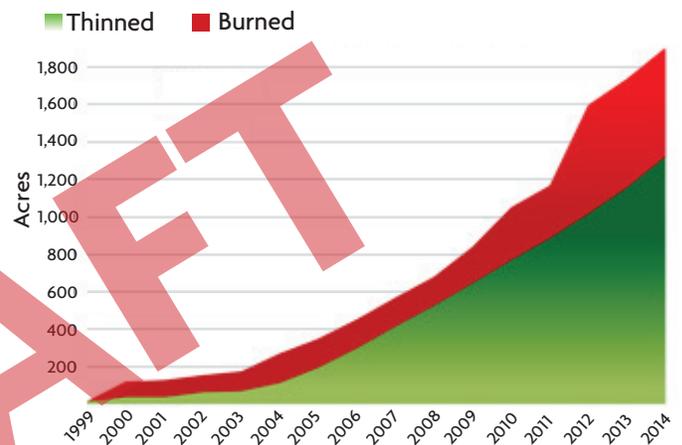
OSMP lands provide high-quality nesting and foraging habitat for birds of prey. Over time, more raptors have successfully nested on OSMP lands. For example, in 1991, Peregrine Falcons returned for the first time in 30 years, and the first Bald Eagle nesting attempt occurred in 2003. In addition, productivity (nesting success) has remained high for years.

### SPECIES OF VERTEBRATES<sup>5</sup>

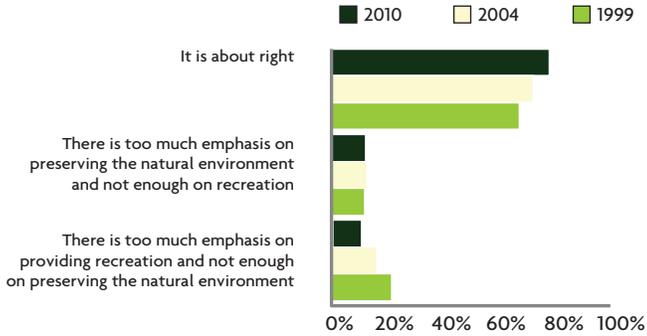


City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks lands play an important role in broad conservation efforts to preserve biodiversity locally, regionally and beyond. Abundance and richness of plant life is one measure of biodiversity. For example, OSMP lands support more than 60% of vascular plant species found in Boulder County and more than 30% of those found statewide. However, OSMP lands represent less than 10% of all lands in Boulder County, and less than 0.1% of all land in the State of Colorado.

### OSMP FOREST MANAGEMENT<sup>5</sup>



OSMP's Forest Ecosystem Management Plan (FEMP) has two goals, reducing wildfire risk and maintaining or enhancing ecological sustainability. The key strategy to achieve both these goals is manipulating the forests—by mechanical thinning (cutting down trees) or prescribed fire. The desired outcome of these treatments is to create structure and composition that is less likely to burn intensely and thus threaten nearby homes and habitats while simultaneously enhancing ecological function. Another benefit is that the resulting forests tend to be aesthetically more pleasing to visitors.

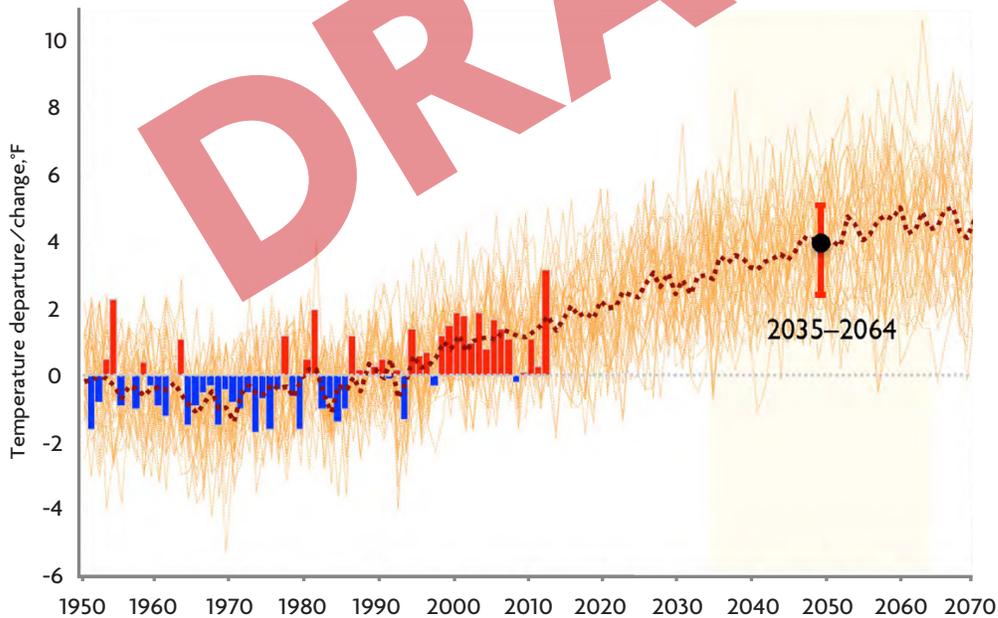


Public support for OSMP land management practices has remained high and improved over the years, especially regarding the balance between preserving the natural environment and serving recreational needs.

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND LAND MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

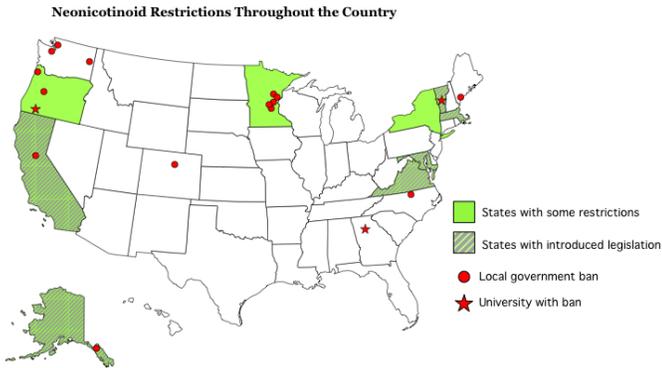
**HISTORIC AND PROJECTED TEMPERATURE PATTERNS IN COLORADO 1950-2064<sup>8</sup>**

In 2014, the Western Water Assessment (WWA) released an updated report titled: “Climate Change in Colorado: A Synthesis to Support Water Resources Management and Adaptation”. This analysis utilized a suite of larger global climate models customized to explore the potential of climate change in Colorado. The models have strong concurrence around the high probability of significant warming in this region over the next 25-50 years. The WWA report noted that the models indicate an temperature increase of between 2 degrees and 6 degrees by 2050. A two degree F increase would result in Boulder having a climatic condition similar to Pueblo, CO. At six degrees, there is no analogue in Colorado and the report noted the closest comparison for climate conditions would be Albuquerque, New Mexico.



These increases in temperature, along with habitat loss, influx of invasive species and pesticide use, could have a significant impact on biological diversity and the overall health of ecosystems. In addition to the ecological changes caused by this general warming, there will also be impacts caused by the high likelihood of increased extremes. These could include more frequent and more intense droughts, floods, wildfires, and other forms of extreme weather events<sup>9</sup>.

## NEONICOTINOID RESTRICTIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY<sup>10</sup>



One class of systemic insecticides, the neonicotinoids, are implicated as a major factor in worldwide pollinator losses, resulting in global trends to reduce their use. Citizen grassroots organizations, such as Bee Safe Boulder, are working with residents and businesses to avoid bee-toxic pesticides. Some states have passed laws to protect pollinators and others have introduced legislation. Several cities, counties and universities have passed neonicotinoid bans, including the City of Boulder, which adopted Resolution No 1159 in May of 2015. Many other cities and counties around the country, including some in Colorado are currently considering similar actions.

## URBAN TREE CANOPY IMPACTS<sup>11 & 12</sup>

Healthy urban trees can mitigate impacts associated with the urban environment: stormwater runoff, poor air quality, energy for heating and cooling buildings, and heat islands. Street and park trees are associated with other intangibles, such as increasing community attractiveness for tourism and business, increasing real estate values and providing wildlife habitat and corridors.

The impacts from urban trees can be economically devastating. The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a state- and federally-regulated invasive pest and is responsible for the death of tens of millions of ash trees in 21 states. EAB was detected in Boulder in 2013.

## How will EAB change the urban landscape over the next decade?

- There are an estimated **72,000** ash trees in the City of Boulder.<sup>11</sup> It is expected that all untreated ash trees will die within the next 10 years.
- The city is planning on treating about a **quarter (1,500)** of all public ash trees in an effort to slow the rate of infestation.<sup>12</sup>
- It is unknown how many of the estimated 66,000 ash trees on private property will be treated and how many will be lost long-term.

## HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT REDUCTIONS

### ANNUAL BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT REMOVALS WITHIN THE CITY OF BOULDER<sup>13</sup>



In 2014 city council passed an ordinance requiring trash and compost to be secure from bears. The goal of securing trash is to protect bears, improve human/wildlife co-existence and increase sanitation and cleanliness of the city.

# ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SOURCES

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1. Local Environmental Action Division
2. Boulder's Climate Commitment Analysis using SWCA tool
3. Boulder's Climate Commitment Greenhouse Gas Inventory
4. 2015 City of Boulder, Open Space and Mountain Parks data
5. 2014 City of Boulder, Open Space and Mountain Parks data
6. Boulder County Parks & Open Space: "Acres of Boulder County Parks and Open Space" January, 2015
7. 1999- Public Information Corporation (1999). A Study of Attitudes of Boulder, Colorado Residents Regarding City Open Space Issues. 2004-Public Information Corporation (2004). A Study of Attitudes of Residents of the City of Boulder, Colorado Regarding Open Space and Mountain Parks Management, Services and Facilities. 2010-National Research Center (2010). City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Resident Survey Report of Results. National Research Center, Boulder CO.
8. 2014 Western Water Assessment: "Climate Change in Colorado"
9. 2012 Climatic Change: "Framing the way to relate climate extremes to climate change", page 283-290
10. City of Boulder Integrated Pest Management Program
11. 2013 United States Forest Service Metro Denver Urban Forest Assessment Report
12. City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department
13. Colorado Parks and Wildlife

## Helpful Links

- Local Environmental Action Division
- Boulder's Climate Commitment
- Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks
- Boulder Parks and Recreation
- Western Water Assessment

DRAFT

# HEALTHY & SOCIALLY THRIVING COMMUNITY

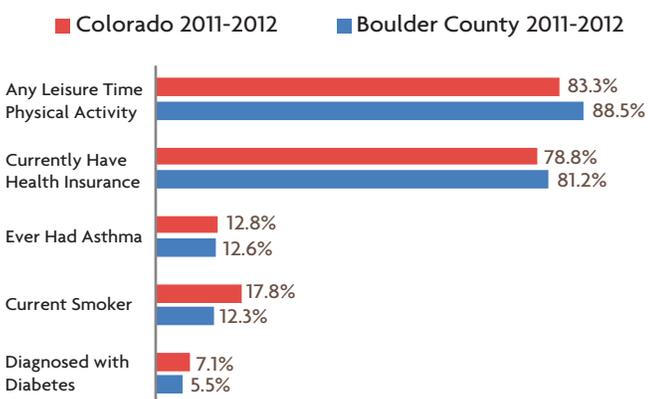
Boulder has a national reputation as a community that prioritizes its health and has an active thriving social and outdoor recreational scene. The BVCP includes goals and policies on community well-being (human services, social equity, community health, and community facilities) as well as agriculture and food. Other aspects of a healthy and thriving community include education, culture, arts, multi-generationalism and human rights. The data analysis presented here focuses on trends related to these topics.

## KEY HEALTH AND SOCIAL TRENDS

- Boulder County residents may be somewhat healthier than Colorado residents with respect to a variety of health indicators, and have lower rates of obesity than Colorado residents.
- Access to healthy food may be improving, with hundreds of acres of OSMP land dedicated to local food production, and Farmers' Market sales nearly doubling within the last decade.
- When expressed as a percentage of total population, a 2013 point-in-time survey suggested that the concentration of homelessness in Boulder was at a similar level to Denver. Other cities in the region had both higher and lower concentrations.
- Local public schools perform at a high level compared to the state average.
- Boulder has a robust park system that meets or exceeds levels of service provided by peer cities both in the region and nationally.
- Boulder's open space and mountain parks quality of experience is highly rated by residents.

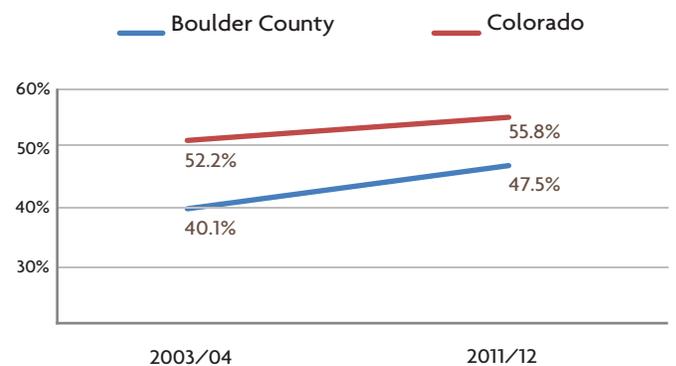
## HEALTH

### SELECT HEALTH INDICATORS<sup>1</sup>



A variety of health indicators show that Boulder County residents may be somewhat healthier than Colorado residents as a whole.

### PERCENT OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE<sup>1</sup>



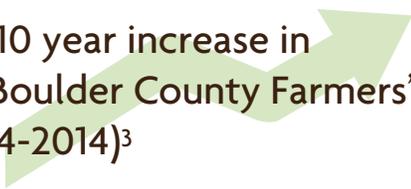
A majority of Colorado residents are overweight or obese. Boulder County's rates are lower than the state's, but they are on the rise.

### FOOD ACCESS AND CHOICE<sup>2 & 3</sup>

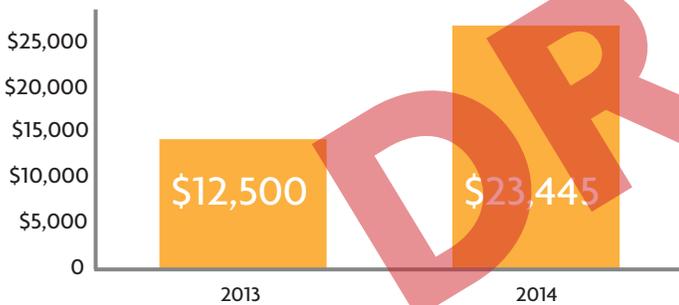
**470** ACRES of city (OSMP) open space agriculture land dedicated to the production of locally-consumed food<sup>2</sup>



**98.5%** 10 year increase in sales at the Boulder County Farmers' Market (2004-2014)<sup>3</sup>



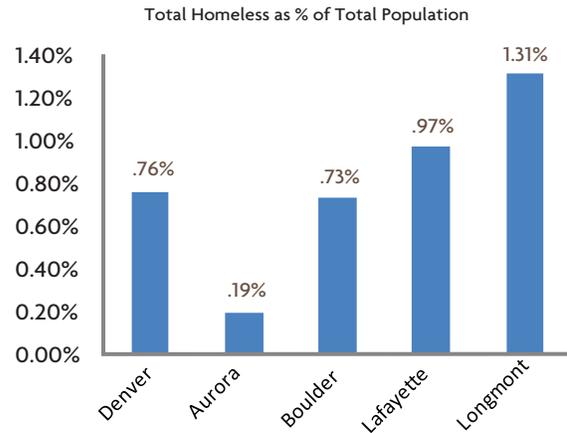
### SNAP PURCHASES AT THE BOULDER COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET<sup>4</sup>



Boulder County's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a food assistance program. In 2014, the Harvest Bucks program was implemented, which matches every dollar withdrawn from a SNAP account with a Harvest Buck. The Harvest Bucks can be used at the Boulder County Farmers' Market for fresh produce. The program nearly doubled SNAP purchases at the Boulder County Farmers' Market from 2013 to 2014.

## SOCIAL SERVICES

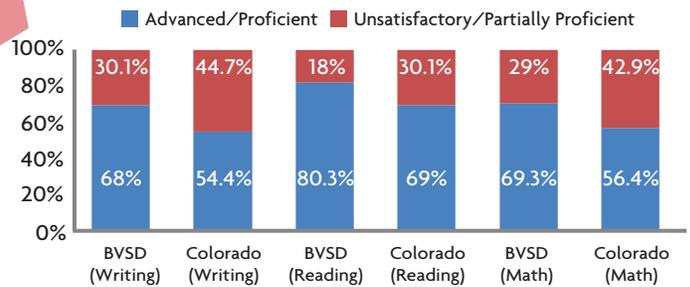
### REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS JAN. 2013<sup>5</sup>



A January 2013 point-in-time comparison of homeless populations suggests that several other cities in the region have comparable, or in some cases higher, rates of homelessness than Boulder.

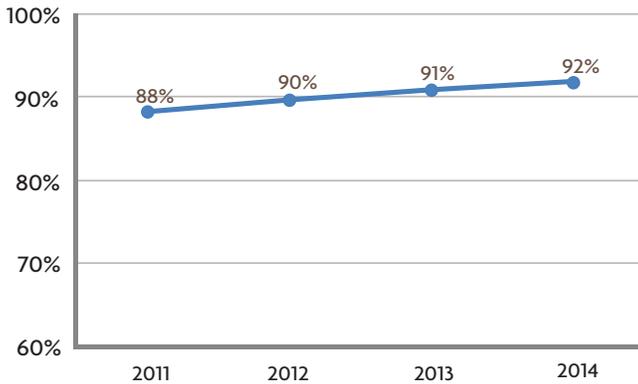
## EDUCATION

### PROFICIENCY BVSD & COLORADO<sup>6</sup>



Students in the Boulder Valley School District have higher rates of advanced/proficient standardized TCAP scores, Colorado's standards-based test, and lower rates of unsatisfactory/partially proficient test scores than Colorado students in general.

## 👤 BVSD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES OVER TIME<sup>7</sup>



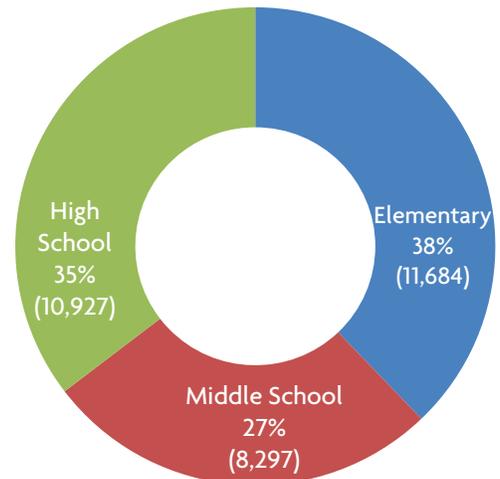
Boulder Valley School District’s graduation rates, which were already high, have been steadily increasing in recent years.

## 👤 GRADUATION AND DROPOUT RATES FOR SELECT POPULATIONS<sup>8</sup>

2013-2014	Colorado	BVSD Overall	BVSD Anglo	BVSD Latino
Grad Rate	77.3%	91.8%	94.4%	<b>79.3%</b>
Dropouts	10,546	81	29	<b>42</b>
Dropout Rate	2.4%	0.5%	0.3%	<b>1.7%</b>

Despite the overall high educational performance by the Boulder Valley School district, academic achievement and opportunity gaps exist for some populations. The BVSD Latino graduation rate (79%) is 13% behind the overall BVSD graduation rate (92%) and 15% behind the Anglo graduation rate (94%). BVSD had 81 total dropouts in the 2013-2014 school year (including dropouts from alternative high schools), for a rate of 0.5%. The Anglo dropout rate was 0.3% and the Latino dropout rate was 1.7%.

## 👤 BVSD STUDENT BODY COMPOSITION SCHOOL YEAR 2014-2015<sup>6</sup>



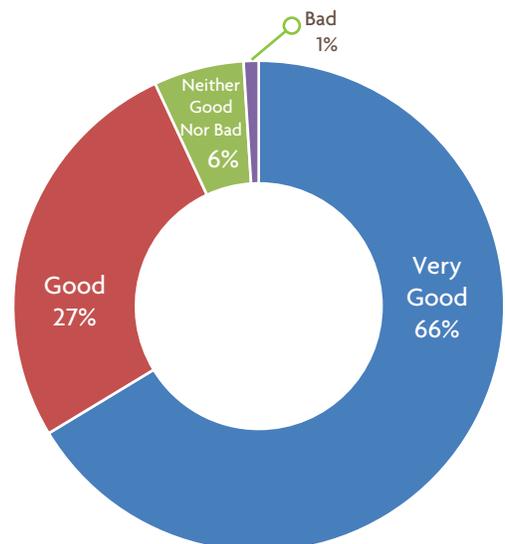
BVSD has a fairly even distribution of students across elementary, middle, and high school.



## RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

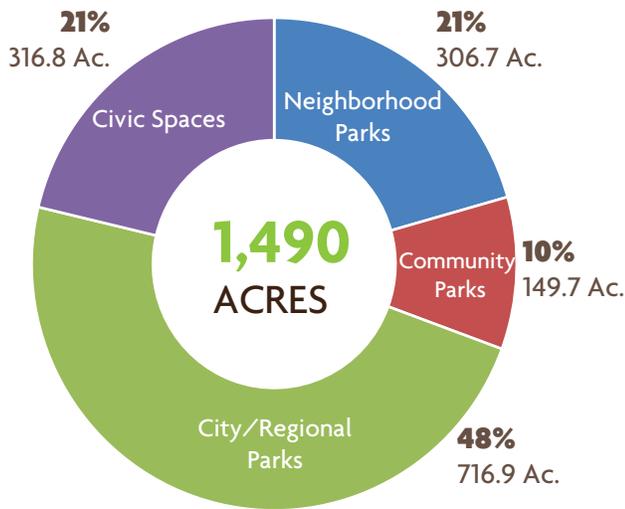


## OVERALL QUALITY OF INDOOR/ OUTDOOR RECREATION<sup>10</sup>



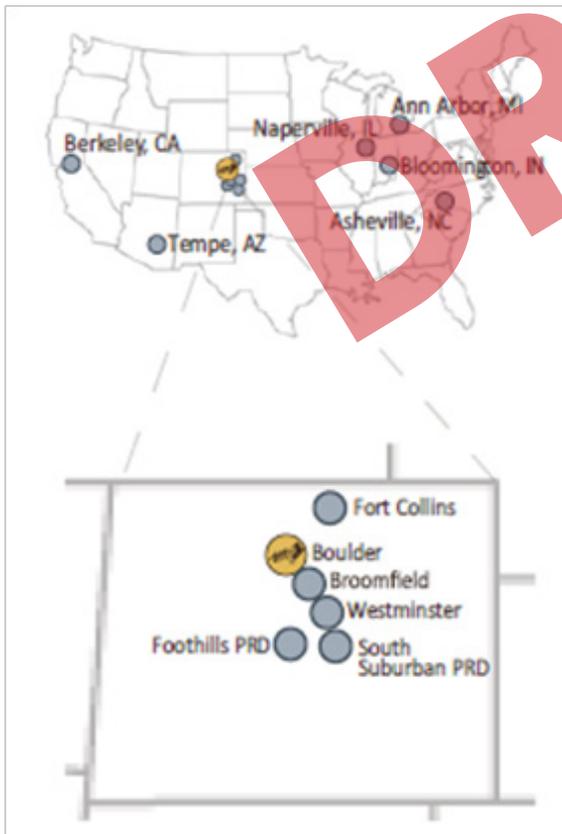
The 2014 Boulder Community survey asked respondents to “rate the quality of indoor and outdoor recreation”. The vast majority of residents consider the quality of Boulder’s recreational facilities to be either “good” or “very good.”

## BOULDER PARKLAND ACREAGE BY TYPE<sup>11</sup>

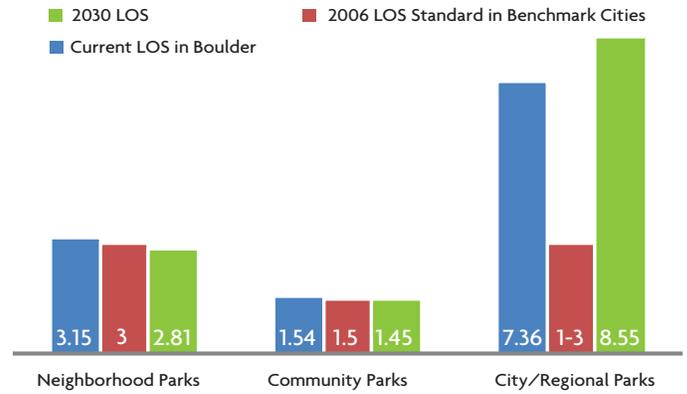


The parkland system managed by Boulder Parks and Recreation is both large (1,490 acres) and diverse, with many different park types distributed throughout the city.

## BOULDER PARKS LEVEL OF SERVICE COMPARED TO PEER CITIES<sup>12</sup>

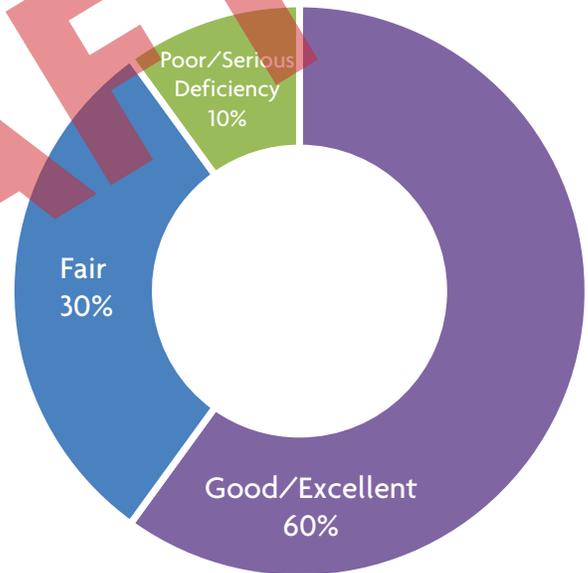


## (ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS)



The current service levels for Boulder's municipal park system (acres per 1,000 residents) meet or exceed the service levels provided in peer cities both within the state and nationwide.

## CONDITION OF BOULDER PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES<sup>14</sup>



A topical report on Boulder Parks and Recreation asset management revealed that approximately 90% of the city's parks and recreation facilities are in fair to excellent condition. Meanwhile, the 10% of facilities in the poor to serious deficiency range represent over 32% of the total backlog of funding needs.

## BOULDER OSMP ACCESS AND/OR SERVICE MEASURES<sup>13</sup>

Percentage of community survey respondents who rate access to Open Space and Mountain Parks trails on an A-F Scale (A = best and F = failing)

**97%** Responded A or B

Percentage of OSMP Resident survey respondents who rate the ability to access their desired Open Space and Mountain Parks destinations

(Very inadequate, Somewhat inadequate, Neither adequate nor inadequate, somewhat adequate, Very adequate)

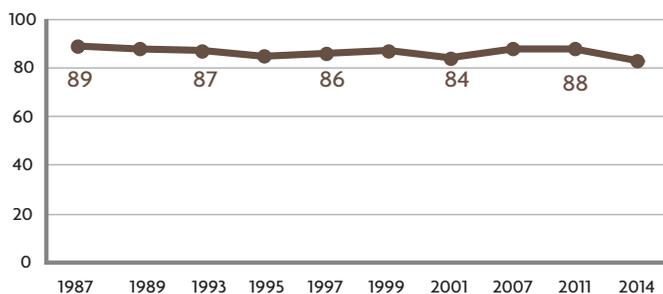
**94%** said very or somewhat adequate

## QUALITY OF EXPERIENCES AND FACILITIES IN OSMP AREAS<sup>9</sup>



Survey respondent rankings of the quality of experiences and facilities in Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks has increased over time.

## OSMP QUALITY OF SERVICE<sup>10</sup>



Respondents to the Boulder Community Survey have consistently rated OSMP's quality of service in the 80s (on a scale of 100) since the question was first asked in 1987.

## ACREAGE OF MAJOR REGIONAL PARK-LAND AND OPEN SPACE PROVIDERS<sup>15</sup>

Provider	Acres (approx)	% of Total
Boulder Parks & Recreation Department	1,500	.1%
Open Space and Mountain Parks	45,500	2.4%
Boulder County Open Space	102,700	5.3%
United States Forest Service	1,500,000	77.7%
National Park Service	266,000	13.8%
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	14,000	0.7%
Other	1,000	.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,930,700</b>	

Boulder County residents have access to a regional system of over 1.9 million acres (3,000 sq. miles) of preserved parks, open spaces, and natural areas.

## HEALTHY & SOCIALLY THRIVING SOURCES

1. Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, adults
2. OSMP <https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp/agriculture-program>
3. Boulder County Farmers' Markets Market Sales Report
4. Boulder County Harvest Bucks Programs Overview
5. Boulder Human Services Issue Brief April, 2015 "Do Homeless People Come Here for Our Services?"
6. Colorado Department of Education, <https://edx.cde.state.co.us/SchoolView/DataCenter>
7. Colorado Department of Education, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/gradcurrent>
8. Colorado Department of Education, <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval>
9. 1999- Public Information Corporation (1999). A Study of Attitudes of Boulder, Colorado Residents Regarding City Open Space Issues. 2004-Public Information Corporation (2004). A Study of Attitudes of Residents of the City of Boulder, Colorado Regarding Open Space and Mountain Parks Management, Services and Facilities. 2010-National Research Center (2010). City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Resident Survey Report of Results. National Research Center, Boulder CO.
10. 2014 City of Boulder Community Survey
11. Parks & Recreation Master Plan page 26
12. Parks & Recreation Master Plan page 40-42
13. 2010/2011 Open Space and Mountain Parks Visitor Survey & 2010 Open Space and Mountain Parks Resident Survey
14. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Topical Report on Asset Management, page 20 <https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/asset-mgmt-1-201307021543.pdf>
15. Parks & Recreation Master Plan page 30 updates with current (2015) open space acreage from Boulder County and OSMP

## Helpful Links

- Boulder County Public Health
- Colorado Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey
- Colorado Department of Education
- Boulder Valley Public Schools
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks

# SAFE COMMUNITY

A sustainable and safe community focuses on law enforcement, emergency response, fostering a climate of safety, shared responsibility, and safety education. The 2010 BVCP addresses safety as a subcomponent of community health, and also expresses a welcoming and inclusive community as a core value of the plan. The data analysis presented here addresses perceptions of safety, arrests and accidents, and emergency/disaster response.

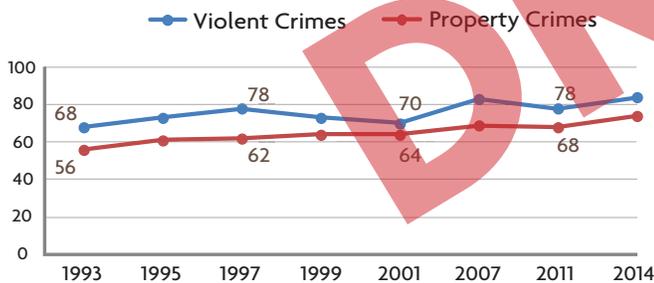
## KEY SAFETY TRENDS

- Community perceptions of safety have generally increased over time.
- Recent arrest and accident data show that while incident counts may fluctuate somewhat from year to year, trends are relatively flat overall.
- The demand for emergency services (based on call activity and number of responses) is increasing over time.

## 🔒 PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY

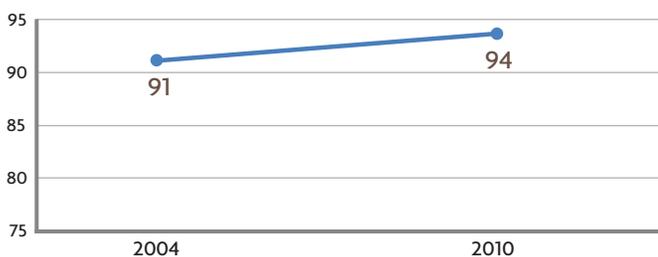
(0 = Very Unsafe, 100 = Very Safe)

### 🔒 SAFETY RATINGS<sup>1</sup>



Since the 1990s, public perceptions of safety within the community have increased over time.

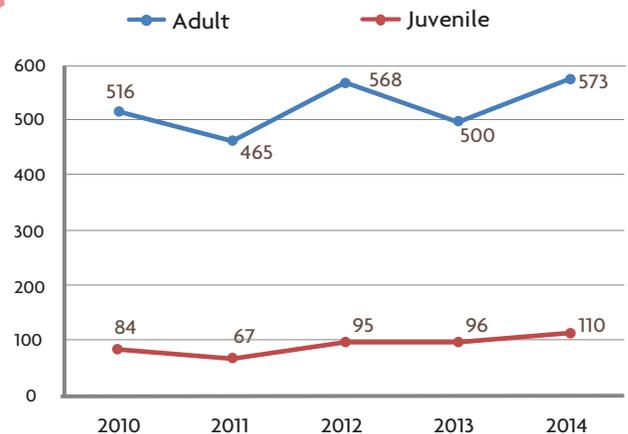
### 🔒 PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY IN OSMP AREAS<sup>2</sup>



Boulder's open space areas are perceived to be very safe.

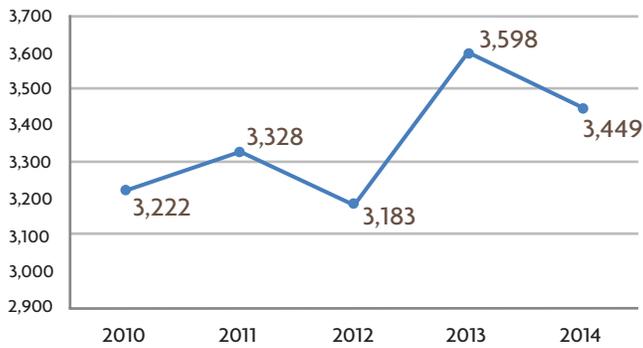
## 🌟 ARRESTS AND ACCIDENTS

### 🌟 TOTAL ARRESTS - PART I CRIMES<sup>3</sup>



Part I crimes include serious crimes such as murder, robbery, aggravated assault, and arson. Juvenile arrests for Part I crimes in Boulder are typically at or below 100 per year, while adult arrests tend to fluctuate in the low-to-mid 500s.

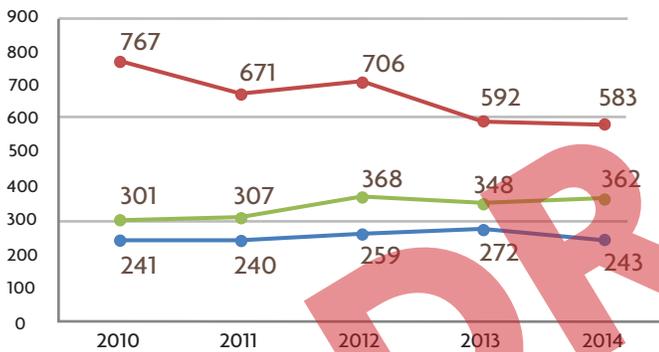
## TOTAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS<sup>3</sup>



Reported traffic accidents in 2013 and 2014 were elevated above what was seen in prior years.

## ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES BY TYPE<sup>3</sup>

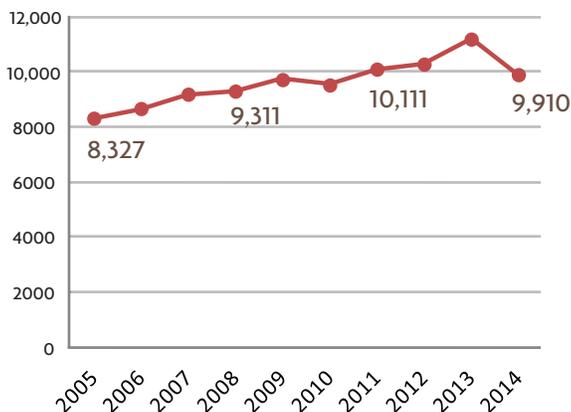
— Bike/Pedestrian — DUI Arrests — Injury Accidents



While DUI arrests have steadily declined since 2010, injury accidents and bike/pedestrian accidents have remained relatively flat.

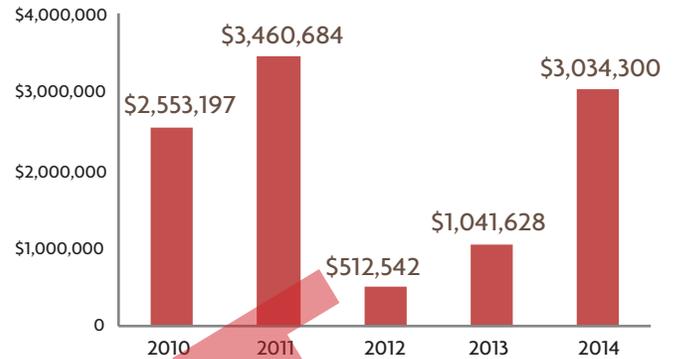
## FIRE-RESCUE AND POLICE

### FIRE-RESCUE ANNUAL RESPONSES<sup>4</sup>



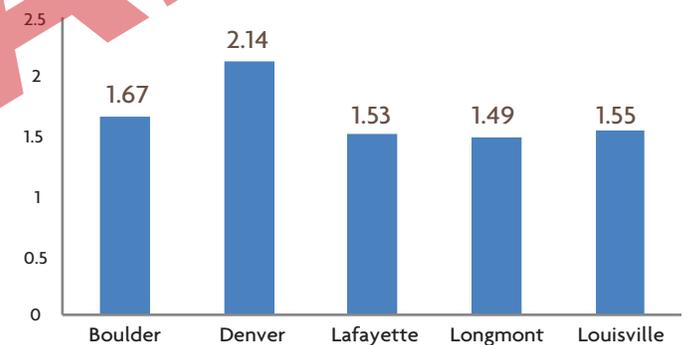
Fire-Rescue responses showed a gradual increase between 2005 and 2013, before dropping in 2014 to 2009-2012 levels. Future years will show if responses resume an upward trend, or if they have stabilized at approximately 10,000 per year.

### FIRE LOSSES<sup>5</sup>



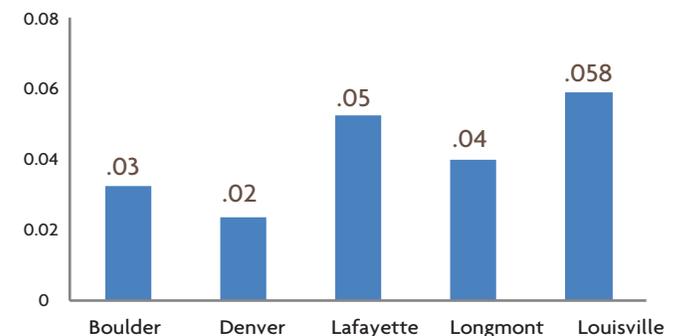
Fire loss varies from year to year, showing no overall trend in Boulder.

### NUMBER OF OFFICERS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS<sup>6</sup>



Boulder has a higher number of full time police officers per 1,000 residents than other cities in Boulder County, but less than Denver, which is a bigger city.

### NUMBER OF CRIMES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS<sup>7</sup>



Crime rates in Boulder (reported violent and property crimes) are lower than the other large cities in Boulder County, but are slightly higher than Denver.

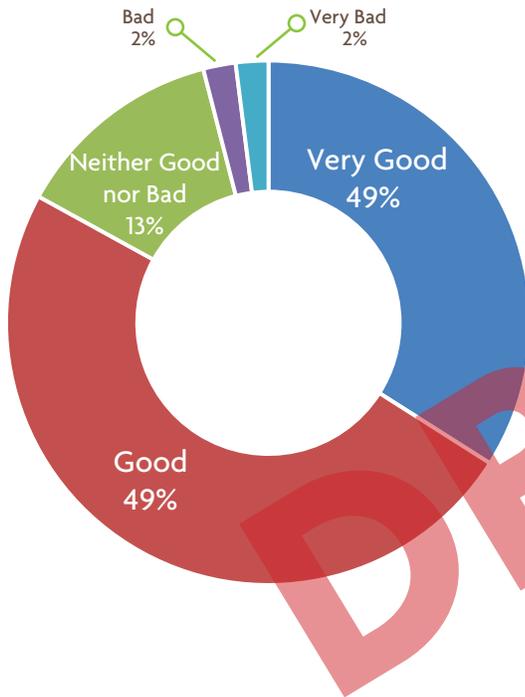
## Helpful Links

- Boulder Police Department Accident and Arrest Data
- 2014 Boulder Community Survey
- Boulder Office of Emergency Management
- Fire-Rescue Master Plan
- Federal Bureau of Investigation

## DISASTER RESPONSE

### CITY GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 2013 FLOODS<sup>8</sup>

(How would you rate the Boulder city government’s response to the September 2013 floods?)



## SAFE COMMUNITY SOURCES

1. 2014 City of Boulder Community Survey
2. 2004-Public Information Corporation (2004). A Study of Attitudes of Residents of the City of Boulder, Colorado Regarding Open Space and Mountain Parks Management, Services and Facilities. 2010-National Research Center (2010). City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Resident Survey Report of Results. National Research Center, Boulder CO.
3. Boulder Police Department Crime Statistics <https://bouldercolorado.gov/police/crime-statistics>
4. Boulder Fire-Rescue 2014 Annual Report page 5
5. Boulder Fire-Rescue 2014 Annual Report page 8
6. Federal Bureau of Investigation “Full-time Law Enforcement Employees, by State by City, 2013” Table 78
7. Federal Bureau of Investigation “Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, by State by City, 2013” Table 8
8. 2014 City of Boulder Community Survey

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# ECONOMICALLY VITAL COMMUNITY

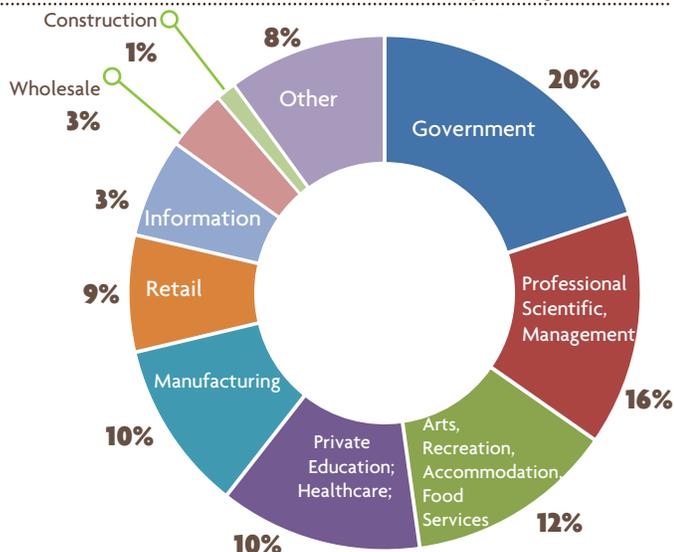
A sustainable and economically vital community focuses on an environment of creativity and innovation, a qualified and diversified workforce, regional public/private collaboration, and business-supportive infrastructure and amenities. The BVCP includes economic vitality goals and policies relating to strategic redevelopment and sustainable employment, diverse economic base, quality of life, sustainable business practices, job opportunities, education, and training. The data analysis presented here focuses on these types of trends.

## KEY ECONOMIC VITALITY TRENDS

- Boulder has a diverse economy long supported by the university, federal labs, and a diverse mix of small and large businesses in a range of industries.
- A collaborative environment supports the creation and growth of businesses in Boulder.
- Decreasing commercial vacancy rates, low unemployment rates and rising lease rates reflect economic vitality and potential future challenges.
- Boulder has one of the nation’s most highly educated workforces.
- The city continues to be an employment center for Boulder County and has experienced job growth since 2010.
- Boulder is a center for business innovation and startup activity.

## ECONOMIC DIVERSITY

### BOULDER INDUSTRY MIX (2013)<sup>1</sup>



Boulder has a diverse mix of industries. The city’s primary industries include professional, scientific and technical services; manufacturing; information; arts, entertainment and recreation; and accommodation and food services. Twenty percent of those working in the area are employed by government entities including the University of Colorado, federal labs and Boulder Valley School District.

## CONCENTRATION OF ADVANCED INDUSTRIES IN BOULDER<sup>2</sup>

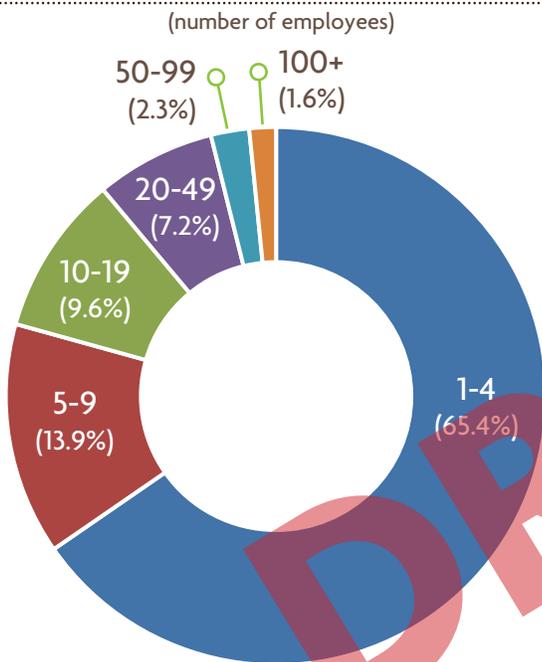
**Aerospace** 4.8 times national average

**Bioscience** 5.5 times national average

**Information Technology** 5 times national average

Key clusters include advanced (aerospace, bioscience, clean tech, digital marketing, software) and lifestyle (natural and organic products, outdoor recreation, tourism) industries.

## BOULDER EMPLOYER BY SIZE<sup>3</sup>



There are an estimated 6,987 employers in the city of Boulder. Most (96%) have fewer than 50 employees.

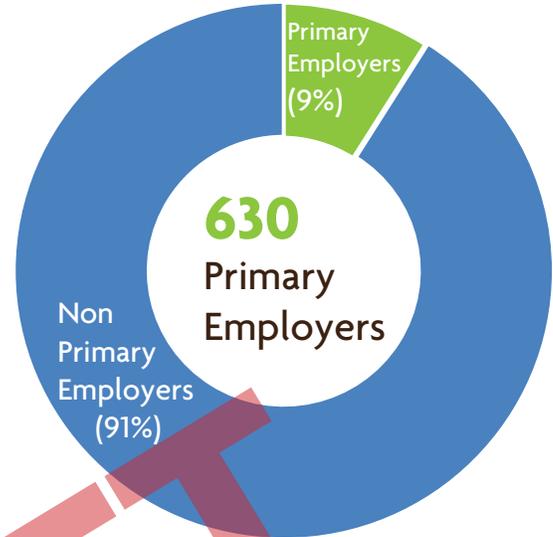
## BOULDER'S TOP 10 EMPLOYERS<sup>4</sup>

(in alphabetical order)

- Ball Aerospace**
- Boulder Community Health**
- Boulder County**
- Boulder Valley School District**
- City of Boulder**
- IBM**
- Medtronic (Covidien)**
- NOAA**
- UCAR/NCAR**
- University of Colorado Boulder**

Boulder's 10 largest employers provide a stable presence in the community and include both public and private organizations.

## PRIMARY EMPLOYERS IN CITY OF BOULDER<sup>5</sup>

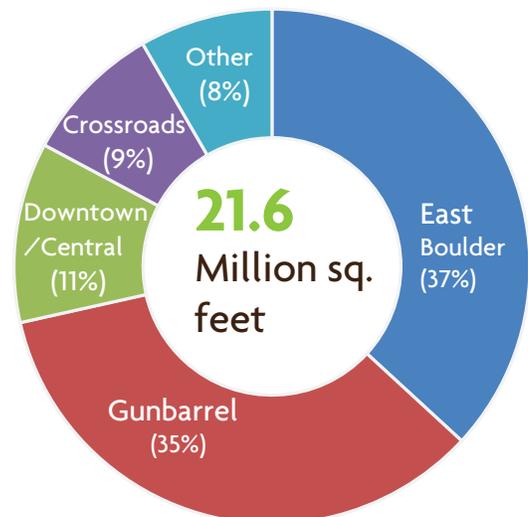


An estimated 630 employers in the city (9%) are primary employers (defined as employers of any size that generate more than half their revenue from sales outside Boulder County) and play a key role in economic vitality by bringing new money into the economy.

## BUSINESS INFRASTRUCTURE

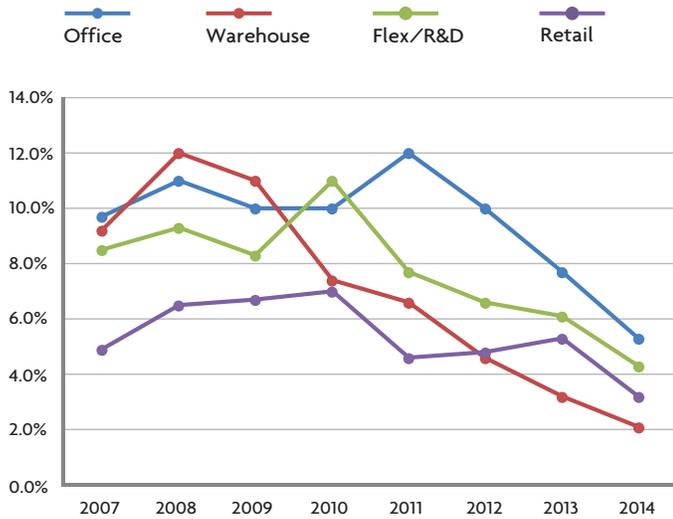
**82%** of primary employers lease the space their company occupies in Boulder.<sup>6</sup>

## COMMERCIAL SPACE IN BOULDER<sup>5</sup>



There is approximately 21.6 million square feet of private commercial space in the City of Boulder. Nearly three-fourths of that space is located in East Boulder or Gunbarrel.

### COMMERCIAL VACANCY RATES<sup>7</sup>

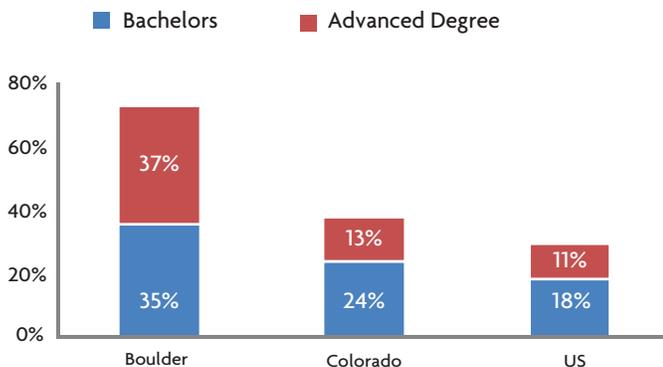


Commercial vacancy rates in the office, industrial and retail markets have been trending down for the past several years. Nonprofit organizations and a growing number of co-working spaces and accelerators support the creation and growth of businesses in Boulder.

**61%** of primary employers agree that having a Boulder location helps their business.<sup>6</sup>

### QUALIFIED AND DIVERSIFIED WORKFORCE

#### POPULATION 25+ WITH BACHELOR'S OR ADVANCED DEGREE<sup>8</sup>



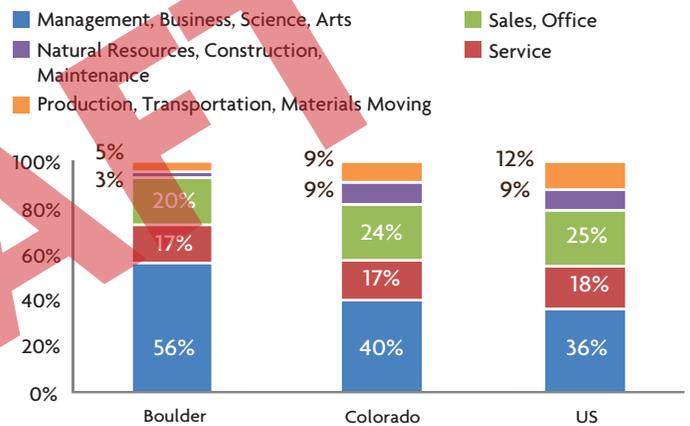
Boulder residents are among the nation's most educated: 72% have earned a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 37% of Colorado residents, and 29% of US residents. This contributes to the high quality of the local workforce, as well as the wealth and cultural vibrancy of the community.

### WORKFORCE WITH STEM DEGREES<sup>9</sup>

**#1 of 358**

Boulder MSA ranking in percentage of workers with STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) degrees.<sup>9</sup>

### OCCUPATION CATEGORIES<sup>10</sup>



City residents are employed in a wide range of occupations, but are more likely to work in professional, business or arts occupations (56%) than the state (40%) or national average (36%).

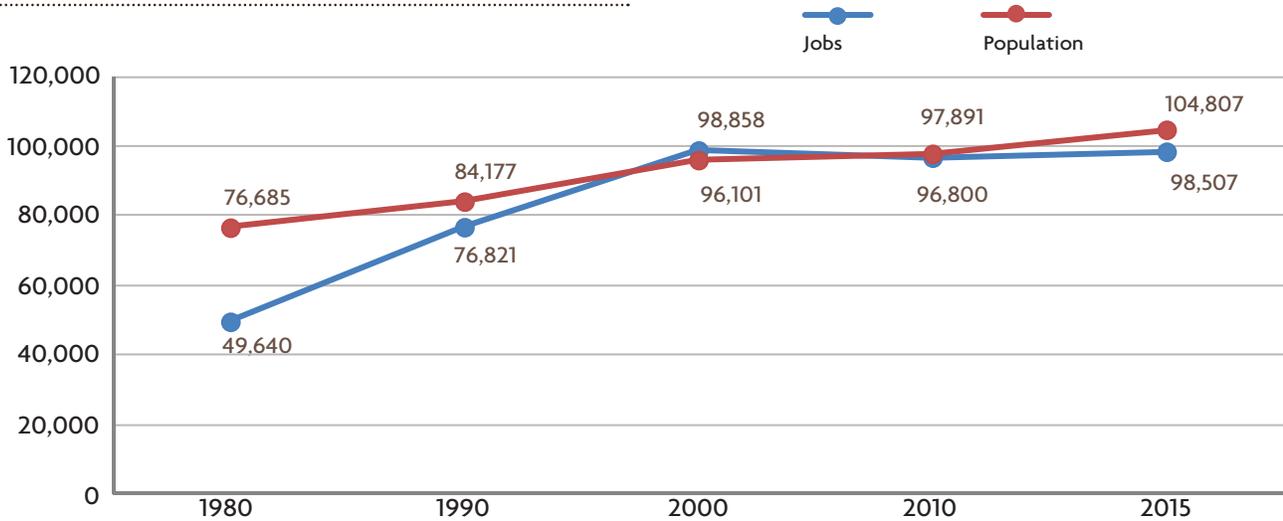
### JOBS

**57%** - Boulder County jobs located in City of Boulder.<sup>11</sup>

Boulder is an employment center, accounting for more than half the wage and salary jobs in the county.

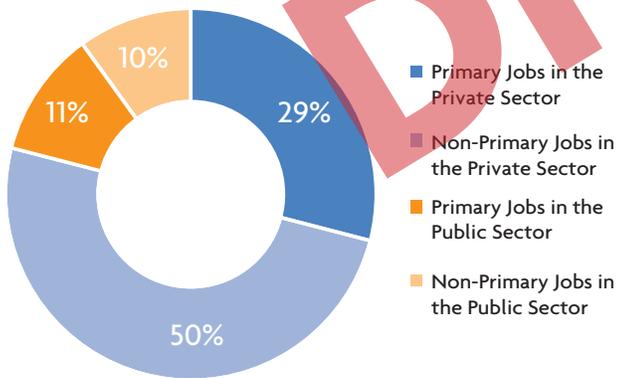
**98,510** - jobs in the City of Boulder (including self-employed)<sup>12</sup>

## BOULDER JOBS AND POPULATION<sup>13</sup>



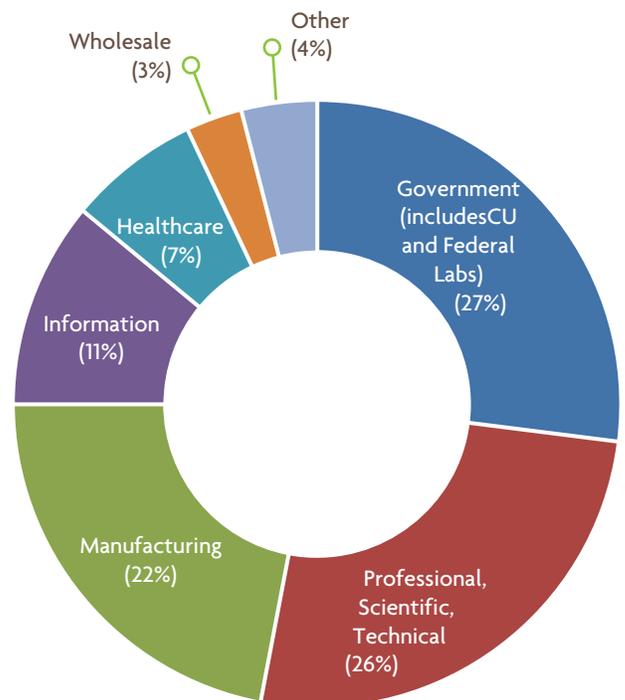
Since the 1990s, the total number of jobs in Boulder has tracked fairly closely with the total number of people. After losing jobs during the recession, employment in Boulder has grown in the past few years. This job growth is more pronounced for 2015 than it appears on this chart as a result of revised methodology. In 2015, the city refined its current employment estimates by taking the additional step of geographically verifying the employment location. The result is a lower existing employment estimate than the previous methodology would have reported, as it was determined that some jobs with city addresses are actually outside of the city limits. Job estimates prior to 2015 have not yet been revised to reflect this new methodology.

## BOULDER'S PRIMARY AND NON-PRIMARY JOBS BY SECTOR<sup>14</sup>

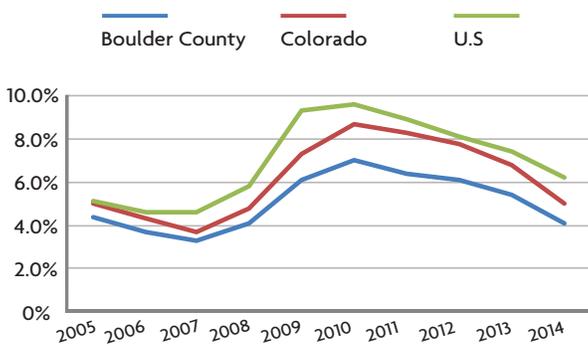


Approximately 40% of jobs in Boulder are held by individuals working for primary employers including CU Boulder and federal labs (27%) and companies in the professional, scientific and technical, manufacturing and information industries.

## BOULDER'S PRIMARY JOBS BY INDUSTRY<sup>15</sup>

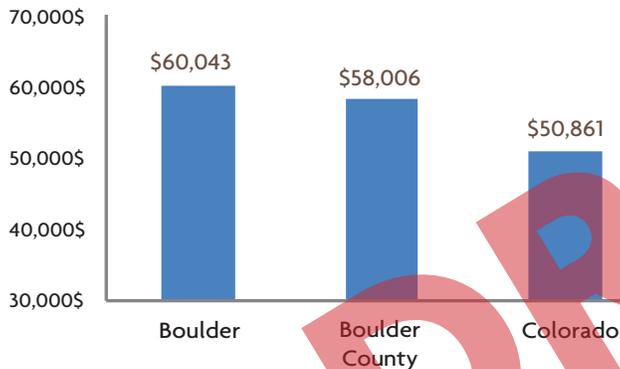


## ANNUAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>16</sup>



Boulder area unemployment has remained lower than state and national averages. In 2014, Boulder's unemployment rate was comparable to pre-recession levels.

## MEDIAN ANNUAL WAGE<sup>17</sup>



A high concentration of research institutions and businesses in advanced industries contribute to higher than average wages in the city of Boulder.

## CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION

### CONCENTRATION OF PATENT ACTIVITY<sup>9</sup>

# #5 of 358

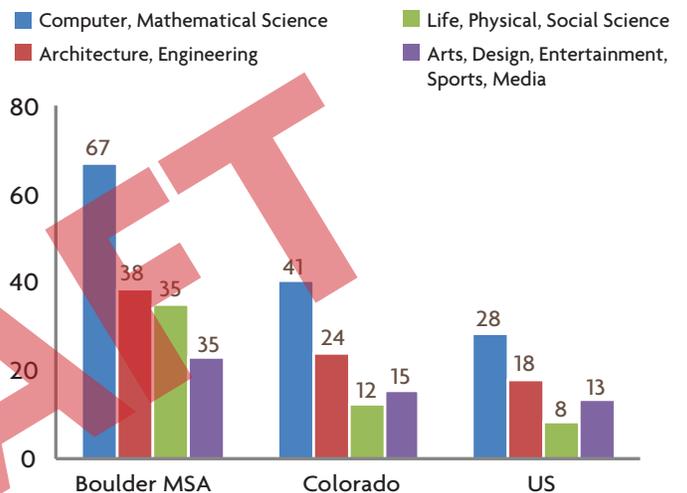
The Boulder area has a high concentration of patent activity, ranking fifth among the nation's metropolitan areas in patents per million residents (2007-2011). The recently opened satellite US Patent and Trademark Office in Denver may help increase that activity by reducing the waiting period for approvals and reducing travel costs for local applicants.<sup>9</sup>

## SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION<sup>9</sup>

# #9 of 358

Boulder had the ninth highest concentration of Small Business Innovation Research awards (SBIR) of all US metropolitan areas, with 122 awards from 2007 to 2011 (compared to a US metropolitan average of 16).<sup>9</sup>

## HIGH TECH AND CREATIVE JOBS<sup>18</sup>



Boulder has a high concentration of high tech and creative jobs. In Richard Florida's *The Rise of the Creative Class, Revised*, Boulder topped the 2012 Creativity Index based on the "3Ts" of economic development: technology, talent and tolerance. Boulder also has a high concentration of creative class jobs: the Boulder MSA has 42%, Colorado has 33%, and the US has 30%.

# ECONOMICALLY VITAL COMMUNITY SOURCES

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1. BEC/CDLE 2013 QCEW data  
\*Includes CU Boulder, BVSD and federal labs
2. Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation (2012)
3. Boulder Market Profile (Boulder Economic Council, 2013 QCEW data)
4. Boulder Market Profile (April 2015)
5. 2012 Primary Employer Study
6. 2012 Primary Employer Survey/Boulder Economic Council
7. Boulder Economic Council, NGKF Fourth Quarter Boulder Market Reports
8. 2013 American Community Survey 5-year estimates (Table DP02)
9. 2007-2011 Brookings Patenting and Innovation in Metropolitan America Report (Feb. 2013)
10. 2013 American Community Survey 5-year estimates
11. Boulder market Profile, November 2014, Boulder Economic Council, page 11
12. 2015 Estimate, City of Boulder Dept. of Community Planning and Sustainability
13. 2015 Boulder Community Profile, updated 8/20/15
14. 2012 Primary Employer study (CU/QCEW)
15. 2012 Primary Employer Study (CU), 2013 Boulder Market Profile (Boulder Economic Council/CU)
16. Colorado Department of Labor and Employment LMI Gateway (colmigateway.com) from LAUS system output file
17. BEC Market Profile Report (excludes self-employed)
18. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, May 2014

## Helpful Links

- 2015 Boulder Economic Council Market Profile
- 2015 Economic Forecast for Metro Denver
- Brookings Report of Patenting and Innovation
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
- US Census American Community Survey

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# GOOD GOVERNANCE

A sustainable community with good governance addresses: stewardship and sustainability of the city’s assets, strategic and timely analysis and decision-making, customer service, relationships with partners, and regulatory/policy compliance. The 2010 BVCP does not directly address the topic of good governance, but expresses strong city/county cooperation as a core value of the plan. The data analysis presented here focuses on trends related to the overall direction and effectiveness of Boulder’s city government, public impressions of city employees, voter participation, and fiscal responsibility.

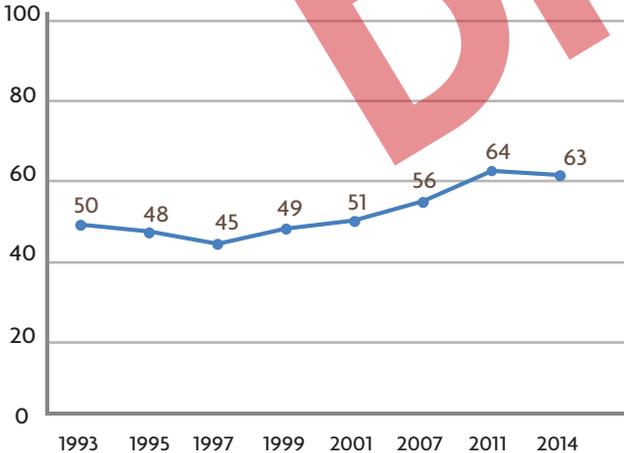
## KEY GOOD GOVERNANCE TRENDS

- Based on the Boulder Community Survey, long-term trends have generally been steady or upward with respect to the overall direction and effectiveness of Boulder city government.
- Public impressions of city employees have also increased somewhat over time.
- Active voters in Boulder County turn out for elections at approximately the same rate as Colorado voters in general. Rates have fluctuated since 2008, but registered voters have decreased.
- The city is fiscally responsible as evidenced by its consistently high bond ratings and annual maintenance spending.

## ↑ DIRECTION OF CITY

### ↑ OVERALL DIRECTION<sup>1</sup>

Please rate to what extent you agree or disagree: I am pleased with the overall direction the city is taking: (0 = strongly disagree, 100 = strongly agree)

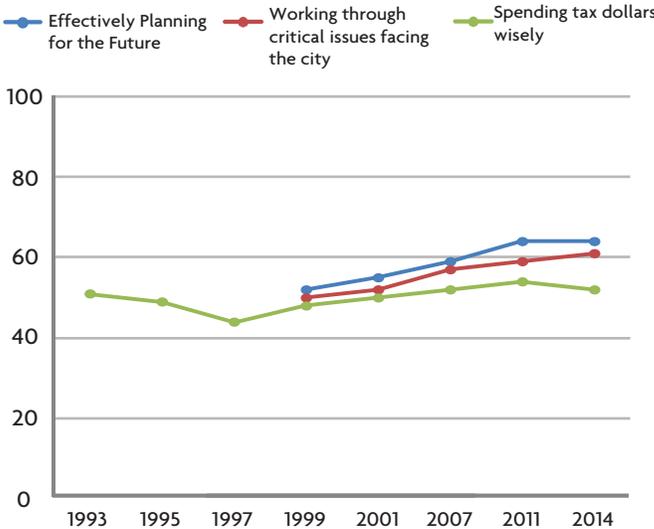


Respondents to the Boulder Community Survey have shown a trend of increasing approval of the city’s overall direction since 1997.

## ↑ EFFECTIVENESS

### ↑ EFFECTIVENESS OF CITY GOVERNMENT<sup>1</sup>

Please rate how well you think the City of Boulder does on each of the following: (0 = strongly disagree, 100 = strongly agree)

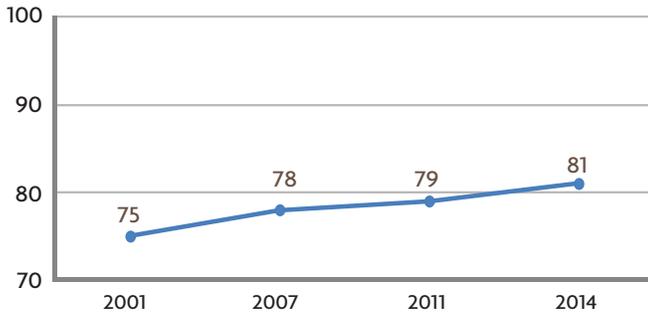


Overall trends related to the effectiveness of city government have been on the rise since the late 1990s, although “spending tax dollars wisely” dropped slightly in the 2014 survey.

## EMPLOYEES

### IMPRESSIONS OF CITY EMPLOYEES<sup>1</sup>

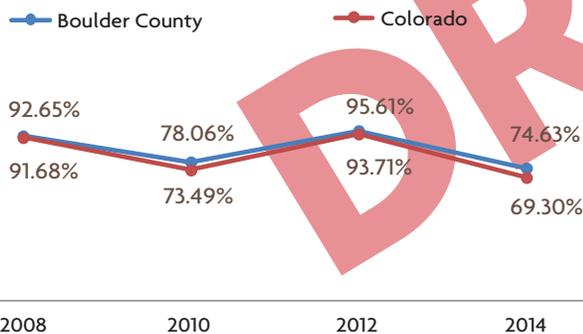
If you had phone, in-person or email contact with a Boulder city employee in the past 12 months, how would you rate your impression? (0 = very bad, 100 = very good)



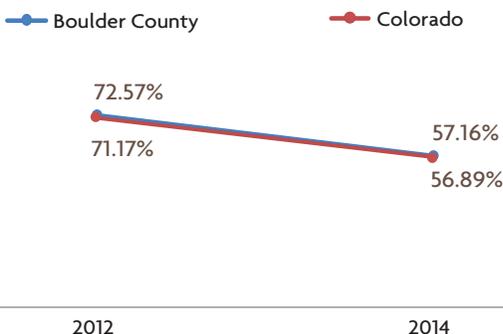
Public impressions of city employees have generally increased over time.

## VOTER PARTICIPATION

### ACTIVE VOTERS<sup>2</sup>



### REGISTERED VOTERS<sup>2</sup>



Boulder County's voter turnout rates have closely mirrored the state's in recent general elections, both among active voters and registered voters.

## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

### CIP MAINTENANCE SPENDING<sup>3</sup>

CITY SPENDING ON MAINTENANCE			
Year	Approved Capital Maintenance Budget	Approved Capital Budget	% Maintenance
2011	\$10,357,668	\$23,596,197	44%
2012	\$7,564,000	\$23,844,754	32%
2013	\$9,378,598	\$33,772,286	28%
2014	\$8,952,305	\$42,596,249	21%
2015	\$28,313,618	\$69,822,595	41%

Maintenance spending is considered an indicator of fiscal responsibility because it increases the longevity of infrastructure. Over the past five years, maintenance spending has accounted for between 21% and 44% of the city's overall capital budget. The funding spike for 2015 is due to two projects: sanitary sewer rehabilitation is budgeted for \$12.7 million, and the waterline replacement project for \$3.6 million.

### CITY BOND RATINGS<sup>4</sup>

**Moody's : Aa1**

**Standard & Poor's : AAA**

The City of Boulder has had Standard & Poor's highest bond rating since 2009 and Moody's second-highest bond rating since before 2005.

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE SOURCES**

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1. 2014 City of Boulder Community Survey
2. Colorado Secretary of State “Biennial Abstract of Votes Cast” 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014
3. City of Boulder Finance Department Research
4. Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

### **Helpful Links**

- 2014 Boulder Community Survey
- Colorado Secretary of State
- City of Boulder Finance Department

**DRAFT**