

Core Values and Sustainability Framework

*Note: This section is a part of the current Chapter 1 and will become part of a refreshed introductory section which will include a vision statement, the longstanding core values, and the overview of sustainability and resilience as an organization framework for the plan's policies. It will also later contain Boulder's Planning History and information about how the plan is organized. The section will become more graphic to better convey the community's values and vision. Changes noted here reflect input from the 2015 BVCP survey and other input from public, boards, and elected bodies. **The values will continue to evolve, incorporating ongoing feedback.** Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary*

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan is a joint plan between the City of Boulder and Boulder County to inform and guide their shared responsibility for planning and development in the Boulder Valley. This section of the plan sets forth the plan's core values and sustainability framework.ⁱ

The Boulder Valley community honors its history and legacy of planning for a livable community surrounded by open space and rural lands while striving together to create and preserve a truly special place that is sustainable, resilient, equitable and inclusive – now and for future generations.

Core Values

Many of the key policies in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan stem from long-standing community values and represent a clear vision of our community and our commitment to:

- **Sustainability** as a unifying framework to meet environmental, economic and social goals
- A welcoming, **inclusive, and diverse** community
- Culture of creativity and **innovation**
- Strong **city and county** cooperation
- Our unique community **identity and sense of place**
- **Compact, contiguous** development and infill that supports evolution to a more **sustainable urban form**
- **Open space** preservation
- Great **neighborhoods** and **public spaces**
- **Environmental** stewardship and **climate** action
- A vibrant **economy** based on Boulder's quality of life and economic strengths
- A diversity of **housing** types and price ranges
- An all-mode **transportation** system to make getting around without a car easy and accessible to everyone
- Physical **health and well-being**ⁱⁱ

Interpreting Core Values and Policies

Applying a sustainability framework to decision-making in Boulder means considering the issues of environment, economy and social equity together. An action or decision in any one of these areas will have consequences on the others. The policies in this plan outline the future vision of the community, focusing on the built environment and its relationship to environmental, economic and social well-being and overall community livability. At the intersection of all these areas is the community’s ability to sustainably meet its needs now and in the future, to adapt successfully to chronic stresses and rebound quickly from disruptive shocks, and to ensure that everyone in our community is able to thrive in a changing environment.

The policies of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan contained in the subsequent sections of the plan define and expand upon the vision and values expressed above and provide guidance and direction for achieving this plan’s vision. The city and county strive to balance the values noted above, recognizing that achieving all the values may not be possible in any circumstance. Careful consideration of tradeoffs among the plan’s policies is necessary when implementing the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.ⁱⁱⁱ

Aligning Plan Organization with City Sustainability Framework^{iv}

The city’s sustainability framework addresses environment, economy and social equity goals and is used in master plans, decision-making and budgeting process. The notion of resilience has increasingly become important in the community – being ready to bounce back in times of emergency or disruption and to adapt over time to chronic stresses. That thread is now woven throughout the plan, including in the newer policy sections of “safety and preparedness” and “governance and engagement,” as noted below. The policies in this plan are generally organized according to the sustainability framework to achieve values toward:

- 1. Livability and a High Quality Built Environment**
- 2. Environmental Sustainability**
- 3. Economic Vitality**
- 4. Accessibility and Connectedness**
- 5. Housing**
- 6. Healthy, Socially Thriving Community**
- 7. Safety and Preparedness**
- 8. Good Governance and Community Involvement**

Sections to follow in this chapter:

- Boulder’s Planning History (carried forward from current plan with better illustrations and description)
- About This Major Update – Current Conditions and Focus Topics and Emerging Themes

ⁱ These topics will be carried forward under separate cover.

-
- ii In addition to these long-standing values that the community largely affirmed in the 2015 survey, community members have suggested mentioning new values including: The ability to be safe everywhere in the community; Engaging the community in all civic matters; Representative and responsive government; and well-maintained infrastructure (and assets). These values are all addressed in the refined policies. They may or may not need to be added to the core values.
 - iii Planning team has heard input that this section needs clarification about how values and policies are to be interpreted. This might need a bit more work.
 - iv As proposed in draft plan organizational outline.

DRAFT

Core Values and Sustainability Framework

*Note: This section is a part of the current Chapter 1 and will become part of a refreshed introductory section which will include a vision statement, the longstanding core values, and the overview of sustainability and resilience as an organization framework for the plan's policies. It will also later contain Boulder's Planning History and information about how the plan is organized. The section will become more graphic to better convey the community's values and vision. Changes noted here reflect input from the 2015 BVCP survey and other input from public, boards, and elected bodies. **The values will continue to evolve, incorporating ongoing feedback.** Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary*

The Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan is a joint plan between the City of Boulder and Boulder County to inform and guide their shared responsibility for planning and development in the Boulder Valley. This section of the plan sets forth the plan's core values and sustainability framework, ~~and provides overall planning guidance for intergovernmental cooperation, growth management, annexation and provision of urban facilities and services.~~ⁱ

The Boulder Valley community honors its history and legacy of planning for a livable community surrounded by open space and rural lands while striving together to create and preserve a truly special place that is sustainable, resilient, equitable and inclusive – now and for future generations.

Core Values

Many of the key policies in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan stem from long-standing community values and represent a clear vision of our community and our commitment to:

- **Sustainability** as a unifying framework to meet environmental, economic and social goals
- A welcoming, ~~and inclusive, and diverse~~ community
- Culture of creativity and **innovation**
- Strong **city and county** cooperation
- Our unique community **identity and sense of place**
- **Compact, contiguous** development and infill that supports evolution to a more **sustainable urban form**
- **Open space** preservation
- Great **neighborhoods** and **public spaces**
- **Environmental** stewardship and **climate** action
- A vibrant **economy** based on Boulder's quality of life and economic strengths
- A diversity of **housing** types and price ranges
- An all-mode **transportation** system to make getting around without a car easy and accessible to everyone
- Physical **health and well-being**ⁱⁱ

Interpreting Core Values and Policies

Applying a sustainability framework to decision-making in Boulder means considering the issues of environment, economy and social equity together. An action or decision in any one of these areas will have consequences on the others. The policies in this plan outline the future vision of the community, focusing on the built environment and its relationship to environmental, economic and social well-being and overall community livability. At the intersection of all these areas is the community's ability to sustainably meet its needs now and in the future, to adapt successfully to ~~and be a resilient~~ community that is able to recover quickly after chronic stresses and rebound quickly from disruptive shocks, and to ensure that everyone in our community is able to thrive in a changing environment.

The policies of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan contained in the subsequent sections of the plan define and expand upon the vision and values expressed above and provide guidance and direction for achieving this plan's vision. The city and county strive to balance the values noted above, recognizing that achieving all the values may not be possible in any circumstance. Careful consideration of tradeoffs among the plan's policies is necessary when implementing the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan.ⁱⁱⁱ

Aligning Plan Organization with City Sustainability Framework^{iv}

The city's sustainability framework addresses environment, economy and social equity goals and is used in master plans, decision-making and budgeting process. The notion of resilience has increasingly become important in the community – being ready to bounce back in times of emergency or disruption and to adapt over time to chronic stresses. That thread is now woven throughout the plan, including in the newer policy sections of “safety and preparedness” and “governance and engagement,” as noted below. The policies in this plan are generally organized according to the sustainability framework to achieve values toward:

- 1. Livability and a High Quality Built Environment**
- 2. Environmental Sustainability**
- 3. Economic Vitality**
- 4. Accessibility and Connectedness**
- 5. Housing**
- 6. Healthy, Socially Thriving Community**
- 7. Safety and Preparedness**
- 8. Good Governance and Community Involvement**

Sections to follow in this chapter:

- Boulder's Planning History (carried forward from current plan with better illustrations and description)
- About This Major Update – Current Conditions and Focus Topics and Emerging Themes

ⁱ These topics will be carried forward under separate cover.

ⁱⁱ In addition to these long-standing values that the community largely affirmed in the 2015 survey, community members have suggested mentioning new values including: The ability to be safe everywhere in the community; Engaging the community in all civic matters; Representative and responsive government; and well-maintained infrastructure (and assets). These values are all addressed in the refined policies. They may or may not need to be added to the core values.

ⁱⁱⁱ Planning team has heard input that this section needs clarification about how values and policies are to be interpreted. This might need a bit more work.

^{iv} As proposed in draft plan organizational outline.

DRAFT