

2. Vision, Goals & Strategies



HOW THEY WORK

Goals are broad statements that push forward the aspirational elements of the plan as stated in the public vision. Goals - along with associated strategies - are statements representing recommendations of what needs to be done, how, and by whom.

Action Steps, which are found in the Implementation Plan on [page 107](#), are a translation from strategies to strategic moves that individuals, organizations or agencies can perform to carry out the plan's goals.

SEVEN PLANNING THEMES

The Plan Elements are a way to organize key elements of the Comprehensive Plan using seven value-based themes. Themes were derived from the topics the community stated were highly valuable in the input process. The Plan Elements provide a discussion on how Chaffee's existing community characteristics will guide long term change.



PEOPLE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Chaffee County is a harmonious community where all people are valued, diversity is welcomed, all are respected and have opportunities to achieve their highest potential.

COUNTY CHARACTER

Residents and visitors celebrate Chaffee County's access to the outdoors, unique landscapes and heritage which unites the community around a common connection to place.

GROWTH & LAND USE

Chaffee County manages growth and land use in a manner consistent with our community values, our recognition of the natural wonder in which we live, and in fairness and equity to the people who live here and respecting the importance of private property rights.

JOBS & ECONOMY

Chaffee County cultivates a vibrant and resilient year-round economy, valuing renewable energy and innovation, offering diverse employment opportunities and an affordable, thriving, healthy mountain community.

Vision

AFFORDABLE & INCLUSIVE HOUSING

Chaffee County residents have the opportunity to live in safe, stable, healthy and affordable homes.

RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Chaffee County stewards its resources in a manner that enhances community resilience and the natural environment for future generations.

CONNECTIVITY, MOBILITY & ACCESS

All Chaffee County businesses, residents and visitors can move around easily and safely with access to a high-quality multi-modal transportation system.

People & Community Services



VISION STATEMENT:

Chaffee County is a harmonious community where all people are valued, diversity is welcomed, all are respected and have opportunities to achieve their highest potential.



*Buena Vista Parade
Photo: Scott Peterson*

Goals & Strategies:

PEOPLE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

GOAL 1.1: Identify as a generous and inclusive community embodying our community values (see page 18) where all people feel valued and are motivated to be engaged in making Chaffee County a more amazing place to live.

STRATEGIES:

- A. Actively promote a harmonious community (County) through community-building, including events and gathering spaces and places with the support of the Community Foundation and non-governmental groups.
- B. Identify and support diverse communities and activities that support these communities with the support of the Community Foundation and non-governmental organizations.
- C. Create a County-wide kindness awareness project and support existing initiatives that promote community understanding.

GOAL 1.2: Recognize the contribution the creative arts make to our community character and economy and enhance and expand creative arts activities and opportunities.

STRATEGIES:

- D. Support the creative arts organizations through promotion, awareness, branding, events and transportation.

GOAL 1.3: Promote and support physical and mental health for all residents.

STRATEGIES:

- E. Invest in facilities and infrastructure that aid in physical activity and promote wellness.
- F. Support individual and community health behaviors that reduce the disease burden in the community.
- G. Encourage practices and activities to achieve healthy food access for all residents.

GOAL 1.4: Develop an aging-friendly community.

STRATEGIES:

- H. Develop an age in place action plan.
- I. Provide a wide range of housing types accessible to people at all stages of life.
- J. Ensure adequate access to health care for later stages of life.

GOAL 1.5: Develop a child, youth and family-friendly community.

STRATEGIES:

- K. Provide an adequate supply of affordable childcare and after school programs that support working families.

- L. Invest in comprehensive services for the health and wellbeing of children, youth and families that addresses disparities and inequities.
- M. Ensure County leadership offers support to all schools for programs considered in their master plans that seek County-level support.

GOAL 1.6: Create a culture where all residents feel motivated and empowered to be involved in making Chaffee County an amazing place to live.

STRATEGIES:

- N. Recognize and support the wealth of volunteerism present in Chaffee County.
- O. Enhance access to information about County activities that support civic participation.

GOAL 1.7: Ensure emergency services are adequately funded and staffed to maintain high quality service in the County as the populations increases.

STRATEGIES:

- P. Review the impact fees for fire and other services for new development to determine if it is sufficient to meet future level of service needs.
- Q. Strengthen relationships with proven diversion programs that can reduce impacts to the criminal justice system as the population increases.

GOAL 1.8: Support vulnerable residents with appropriate services.

STRATEGIES:

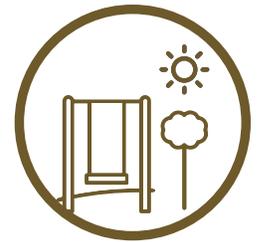
- R. Collaborate with local coalitions and service providers to deliver services for Chaffee County’s most vulnerable residents including people who are experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, or food insecurity.

GOAL 1.9: Maintain a fiscally-stable and effective County government.

STRATEGIES:

- S. Ensure growth does not adversely affect fiscal health.
- T. Coordinate with municipal, state and other governments to determine potential for cost savings through inter-jurisdictional agreements to provide new services.
- U. Communicate routinely with the public through the most convenient and accessible channels during and in anticipation of public health events or human services concerns.
- V. Complete a Chaffee County Strategic Plan.

County Character



VISION STATEMENT:

Residents and visitors celebrate Chaffee County’s access to the outdoors, unique landscapes and heritage which unites the community around a shared connection to place.



Photo: Scott Peterson

Goals & Strategies:

COUNTY CHARACTER

GOAL 2.1: Responsibly manage the County's recreation opportunities across all jurisdictions to: A) Maintain quality of life and outdoor recreation experiences, B) Sustain recreation-based economic contribution, and C) Maintain healthy forests, waters, wildlife and working lands.

STRATEGIES:

- A.** Adopt the Recreation in Balance (RIB) program and its efforts to maintain healthy forests, waters and wildlife in balance with outdoor recreation.
- B.** Collaborate with municipalities and public agencies on recreation assessments, planning, and project development to meet regional recreational needs. .
- C.** Work with local non-profit organizations and public partner agencies to identify, maintain, and provide equitable recreational access to public lands.

GOAL 2.2: Preserve the County's historic and cultural resources and working landscapes recognizing how heritage contributes to economic development and broadens awareness of local culture and history.

STRATEGIES:

- D.** Support the Chaffee County Heritage Area Advisory Board, Historic St. Elmo & Chalk Creek Canyon, and the Buena Vista Historic Preservation Commission.
- E.** Identify and preserve historically significant structures and sites and create a database, whether geographic or tabular, that is accessible to all. Reference the Colorado Historic Register and the National register.
- F.** Enhance historic preservation education, outreach, and awareness.
- G.** Protect Chaffee County's iconic viewsheds and Scenic Byways designation.
- H.** Keep working lands working by supporting agricultural economics and helping agricultural operations manage increasing conflicts and costs associated with increasing population and visitation/recreation use.

GOAL 2.3: Update the regulatory framework to support quality of life goals.

Affordable & Inclusive Housing



VISION STATEMENT:

Chaffee County residents have the opportunity to live in safe, stable, healthy and affordable homes.



New housing in Buena Vista

Goals & Strategies:

AFFORDABLE & INCLUSIVE HOUSING

GOAL 3.1: Support the development of affordable housing within all jurisdictions in Chaffee County.

STRATEGIES:

- A.** Collaborate regionally to address the affordable housing issues faced by Chaffee County.
- B.** Adopt policies that promote the development and preservation of housing types across the housing spectrum that serve residents across a range of demographics and incomes.
- C.** Develop a dedicated housing fund to be used to support the Chaffee Housing Authority's affordable housing programs, affordable housing development projects and affordable housing preservation.
- D.** Work with the Chaffee Housing Authority to meet the regional affordable housing production goals as established in the Chaffee County Housing Needs Assessment.
- E.** Ensure residents have access to safe and livable homes.

Connectivity, Mobility & Access



VISION STATEMENT:

All Chaffee County businesses, residents and visitors can move around easily and safely with access to a high-quality multimodal transportation system.



Photo by Scott Peterson

Goals & Strategies:

CONNECTIVITY, MOBILITY & ACCESS

GOAL 4.1: Design and fund a multimodal transportation network that provides options of travel and serves existing population and activity centers as its priority.

STRATEGIES:

- A. Create the Chaffee County Multimodal Transportation Plan (CCMTP) to address elements of Safety, Mobility, Economic Vitality, Maintenance, and Strategic Policies.
- B. Adopt the CCMTP as an addendum to the Chaffee County Comp Plan 2020 and use it to guide consistency in decision making across other plans.
- C. Update the 2007 Chaffee County Trails Master Plan as part of the CCMTP to improve trail connectivity and town trail connections.
- D. Develop a Sustainable Funding Plan to offset County investment needed for the multimodal system.

GOAL 4.2: Enhance safety in Chaffee County by reducing fatalities and serious injuries in all modes.

STRATEGIES:

- E. Work collaboratively to support the Colorado Department of Transportation goal of zero transportation-related deaths.

GOAL 4.3: Improve mobility and access across Chaffee County.

STRATEGIES:

- F. Prioritize multimodal transportation opportunities and choices to all project developments by integrating bicycle, pedestrian, transit and telework connectivity in developments.
- G. Maintain and improve access to public lands and recreational assets.

GOAL 4.4: Improve economic vitality through strategic transportation investments.

STRATEGIES:

- H. Provide appropriate infrastructure to support economic development.

GOAL 4.5: Improve multimodal infrastructure maintenance across Chaffee County.

STRATEGIES:

- I. Maintain the quality and functionality of the existing multimodal system now and in the future.

- J. Provide a safe and efficient County-wide multimodal network that minimizes maintenance costs and supports achieving the community's vision and goals.
- K. Maintain and improve public transportation in the Chaffee County through coordinated planning and investments.

GOAL 4.6: Ensure development regulations support transportation goals for safety, mobility, economic vitality, maintaining the transportation system and strategic policies.

STRATEGIES:

- L. Update the development code to achieve transportation goals.

Resilient & Sustainable Environment



VISION STATEMENT:

Chaffee County stewards its resources in a manner that enhances community resilience and the natural environment for future generations.



Photo: Scott Peterson

Goals & Strategies:

RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

GOAL 5.1: Cut the risk severe wildfire poses to human life, water, critical infrastructure, homes, wildlife habitat and recreation assets/ economy in half by 2030, while also enhancing habitat and forest health.

A. Implement the Chaffee County Community Wildfire Protection Plan led by the Envision Forest Health Council - an existing collaborative connecting 21 agencies and organizations.

GOAL 5.2: Maintain and improve community preparedness, emergency response and recovery capacity to ensure public health and safety.

STRATEGIES:

- B.** Enhance government hazard mitigation and response planning.
- C.** Plan and support vulnerable populations to be resilient to hazards, epidemics, extreme weather and climate-related events, including drought and flooding concerns.
- D.** Promote disaster-resilient community infrastructure including housing, utilities, transportation systems and healthcare resources.
- E.** Build and grow in a manner that is resilient to wildfire and other natural hazards.

GOAL 5.3: Identify, promote, and expand the use of energy efficient practices and renewable energy resources.

STRATEGIES:

- F.** The County will collaborate with Federal, State and municipal governments, voluntary organizations, energy experts, businesses and others to establish and commence implementation of energy conservation goals.
- G.** Lead by example in County operations to conserve energy, use renewable energy sources in an effective manner, and take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

GOAL 5.4: Protect public health and the environment through proper waste management.

STRATEGIES:

- H.** Minimize land filling through an integrated waste management system in accordance with the state hierarchy of waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and waste to energy.

GOAL 5.5: Manage water resources to ensure a resilient and sustainable water supply that can support people and ecosystems.

STRATEGIES:

- I. Ensure new development has a sufficient and sustainable water supply.
- J. Promote water conservation and efficiency in new development, redevelopment and County facilities.
- K. Support an integrated water resource management approach and collaborate across sectors, jurisdictions and agencies on implementation.
- L. Support policies and programs that protect agricultural water rights and agriculture's contribution to hydrological functions.

GOAL 5.6: Protect the water quality and quantity in Chaffee County's rivers and streams systems.

STRATEGIES:

- M. Develop a river corridor overlay map to guide and inform development impacting the river corridor.
- N. Mitigate impacts of older, less reliable septic systems.

- O. Protect vegetation that enhances infiltration of precipitation for groundwater recharge and erosion prevention.
- P. Ensure erosion and stormwater standards adequately protect water quality and functions of groundwater recharge.
- Q. Adopt development standards, based on best management practices, that reliably protect the Arkansas River and its tributaries.
- R. Support increased collaboration and alignment of efforts to protect the watershed between different agencies, organizations, and governments.
- S. Support payments for ecosystem services programs for landowners to enhance floodplain function and to protect river corridors.
- T. Increase knowledge and understanding about the health of the Arkansas River and its watershed.

GOAL 5.7: Protect critical wildlife habitat, connectivity and migration corridors cross-jurisdictionally.

STRATEGIES:

- U.** Develop mapping and geospatial modeling of the most impactful wildlife habitat and migration corridors in Chaffee through the Envision Recreation Plan and the Chaffee Recreation Suitability Map.
- V.** Use the wildlife map and model data to develop and then implement wildlife protection standards for all new development.
- W.** For highest priority habitat areas, adopt a conservation subdivision overlay with appropriate development standards.
- X.** Work with private landowners, non-profits, and government agencies to invest in the protection and restoration of priority wildlife habitats.

GOAL 5.8: Become a model County for sustainability.

STRATEGIES:

- Y.** Develop a County-wide Sustainability Plan.
- Z.** Conduct education and outreach to increase understanding and build consensus on the needs of our environment and support citizen's and government's actions in achieving sustainability.
- AA.** Create the capacity in the County to oversee implementation.

Jobs & Economy



VISION STATEMENT:

Chaffee County cultivates a vibrant and resilient year-round economy, valuing renewable energy and innovation, offering diverse employment opportunities and an affordable, thriving, healthy mountain community.



*Downtown Buena Vista
Photo by Scott Peterson*

Goals & Strategies:

JOBS & ECONOMY

GOAL 6.1: Develop, grow, and maintain existing local businesses.

STRATEGIES:

- A. Provide business support for a vibrant agricultural economic sector through a variety of financial incentives and programs.
- B. Provide educational opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

GOAL 6.2: Attract new and innovative industries that align with community values and provide long-term employment for a diverse workforce.

STRATEGIES:

- C. Recruit and support industry sectors including those focused on: agriculture, food production, recreation, sustainability, and light manufacturing.
- D. Invest in quality of life services in Chaffee County that makes it an attractive location for entrepreneurs and location-neutral employees to relocate.
- E. Leverage the need for Forest Treatment and Community Wildfire Protection Plan to create jobs.

GOAL 6.3: Manage the tourism sector to ensure the values and resources that make Chaffee County a great and desirable destination are protected and economic benefits are year-round.

STRATEGIES:

- F. Work closely with the land management agencies, Recreation in Balance program, the Chaffee County Heritage Board, the Chaffee County Visitor's Bureau, the Chaffee County Community Foundation, the Chaffee County Economic Development Corporation and others to develop strategies for year-round economic resiliency.

GOAL 6.4: Provide appropriate infrastructure to support economic development.

STRATEGIES:

- G. Provide high-quality infrastructure including mobility, telecommunications public utilities and workforce housing. Support improvements to broadband coverage, connectivity and diversity

GOAL 6.5: Support the needs and advance opportunities for the County's workforce.

STRATEGIES:

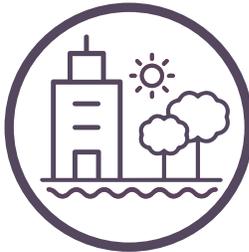
- H. Support and expand post-secondary educational institutions including community colleges, vocational and trade school programming to promote a locally-grown workforce.

GOAL 6.6: Ensure the land use code supports economic development goals.

STRATEGIES:

- I. Update the code to reduce and/or eliminate unnecessary regulations.

Growth & Land Use



VISION STATEMENT:

Chaffee County will manage growth and land use in a manner consistent with our community values, our recognition of the natural wonder in which we live, and in fairness and equity to the people who live here and respecting the importance of private property rights.



St. Elmo
Photo: Scott Peterson

Goals & Strategies:

GROWTH & LAND USE

GOAL 7.1: Create distinct communities focusing growth around existing towns that enhances community character and maximizes public investments in infrastructure and services.

STRATEGIES:

- A. Strengthen cooperation and intergovernmental agreements to execute annexation, utility connections, and public services.
- B. Use strategies to incentivize and direct growth to existing towns, such as density bonuses.
- C. Encourage flexible and creative development in the unincorporated center of Nathrop and encourage more pedestrian-oriented development in Johnson Village and infill in the municipalities.

GOAL 7.2: Conserve and protect Chaffee County's agricultural and environmentally important lands, and scenic values while balancing private property rights with community objectives.

STRATEGIES:

- D. Apply the Community Conservation Connection criteria to use public funds for the protection of agricultural operations, agricultural land, or environmentally important lands through land acquisitions, conservation easements and conservation leases.

- E. Identify market-based incentives to adopt into the land use code that support planned development and achieve desired resource protection.
- F. Develop an overlay zone and review process to protect environmentally important lands.
- G. Consider land use policies that continue to preserve high value scenic and historic resources in the County and support implementation of the Collegiate Peaks Scenic & Historic Byway's Corridor Management Plan.

GOAL 7.3: Ensure adequate and well-planned infrastructure meets the needs of current and future residents and businesses, including telecommunications, water and wells, wastewater and sustainable energy.

STRATEGIES:

- H. Encourage development in areas that have the ability to provide infrastructure.
- I. Ensure the planning, funding and construction of infrastructure projects are coordinated across government agencies and jurisdictions and allow public input.

GOAL 7.4: Create a regulatory framework that supports the new vision of this plan.

STRATEGIES:

- J. Update the County Land Use Code.