

**GRAND JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007, 7:00 PM
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM, 250 N. 5TH STREET**

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

7:00 COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

7:15 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7:20 REVIEW OF FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS [Attach W-1](#)

7:25 REVIEW WEDNESDAY COUNCIL AGENDA

7:30 UPDATE ON LAS COLONIAS PARK MASTER PLAN: The Master Plan was revised because a portion of the site was necessary for Riverside Parkway alignment which significantly impacted the initial Master Plan. [Attach W-2](#)

8:20 UPDATE ON AIR QUALITY IN THE GRAND VALLEY: Perry Buda from the Mesa County Health Department Air Quality Division will provide an annual update on Grand Valley air quality issues. [Attach W-3](#)

8:50 C.A.S.T. POLICY STATEMENT CONCERNING GLOBAL WARMING: The Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) has developed a policy statement concerning global warming. They would like their member towns to adopt this policy statement. [Attach W-4](#)

ADJOURN

FUTURE CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP AGENDAS

(15 March 2007)

APRIL 2007

↪ **APRIL 2, MONDAY 11:30 AM: TWO RIVERS CONVENTION CTR**
11:30 RIVERFRONT COMMISSION & URBAN TRAILS COMMITTEE



↪ **APRIL 2, MONDAY 7:00 PM: City Hall Auditorium**
7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS
7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
7:30 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS
7:35 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION: The *Geographic Information System* _____
City's Geographic Information System (GIS).
8:05 UPDATE ON STATE RIVER BASIN ROUNDTABLE

↪ **APRIL 13, FRIDAY 8:00-5:00: TWO RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER**
8:00 TRAINING: Systematic Development of Informed Consent (SDIC) for City Council and Department Heads

↪ **APRIL 16, MONDAY 11:30 AM: TWO RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER**
11:30 PRESENTATION OF GENESIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO ELECTED OFFICIALS: City of Grand Junction, Town of Palisade and Mesa County

↪ **APRIL 16, MONDAY 7:00 PM: City Hall Auditorium**
7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS
7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
8:10 AGREEMENT WITH "CINEMA AT THE AVALON"
9:00 UPDATE ON THE CITY-FOREST SERVICE FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN



↪ **APRIL 30, MONDAY 11:30 AM: TWO RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER**
11:30 MEET WITH UTE WATER BOARD

↪ **APRIL 30, MONDAY 7:00 PM: City Hall Auditorium**

7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS

7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7:30 MEET WITH THE YOUTH COUNCIL

8:00 REVIEW INFILL/REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



MAY 2007

↪ **MAY 14, MONDAY 11:30 AM: Administration Conference Room**

11:30 OPEN

↪ **MAY 14, MONDAY 7:00 PM: City Hall Auditorium**

7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS

7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7:30 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

7:35 DISCUSS AWARD OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONTRACT

MAY 2007

↪ **JUNE 4, MONDAY 7:00 PM: City Hall Auditorium**

7:00 COUNCIL REPORTS, REVIEW WEDNESDAY AGENDA AND FUTURE WORKSHOP AGENDAS

7:25 CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

7:30 APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

7:40: OPEN

↪ **BIN LIST** ↪

1. OUTDOOR DINING ON MAIN STREET (staff to prepare a background report)
2. ORDINANCE REQUEST: Requiring that sex offenders live a minimum of 500 feet from a school, pre-school and public daycare facilities.
3. 211 TELEPHONE SERVICE
4. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AT THE REGIONAL CENTER: Update on their activities. (Contact is Director Christian Mueller, 255-5711).
5. MOAB PROJECT SUPPLIER ALLIANCE (MPSA): Promotes businesses that want to support DOE's Moab Reclamation Project. (Wait until DOE contractor is known).
6. RTC PROPOSAL FOR THEIR PROPERTY: Use property as collateral for loan for building improvements.



Attach W-2

Las Colonias Park Master Plan

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA						
Subject		Las Colonias Park Master Plan				
Meeting Date		March 19, 2007				
Date Prepared		March 13, 2007			File #	
Author		Shawn Cooper		Parks Planner		
Presenter Name		Joe Stevens		Director Parks and Recreation		
Report results back to Council		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	When
Citizen Presentation		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Consideration

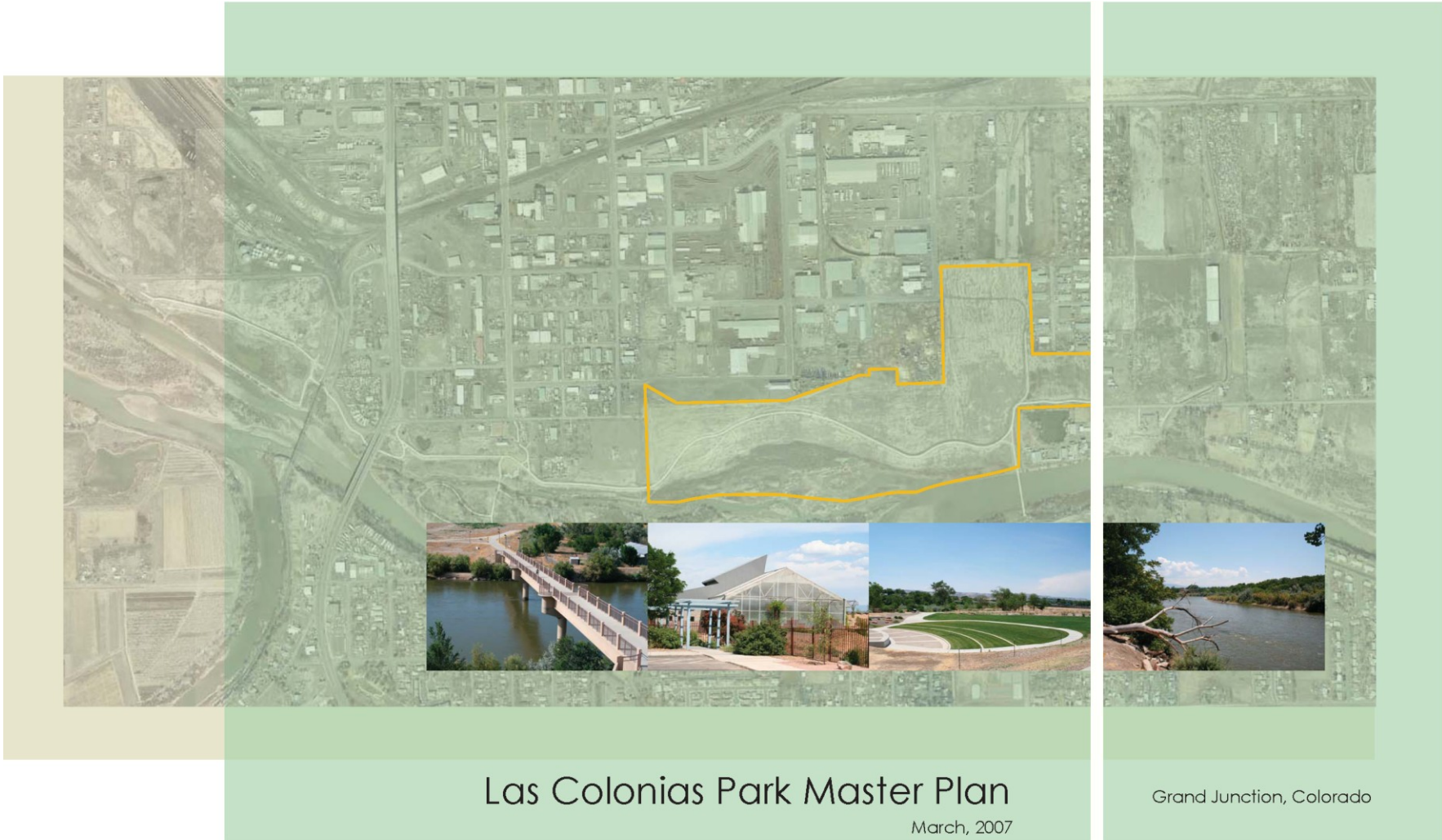
Summary: Presentation of the Las Colonias Park Master Plan as prepared by EDAW, Inc. of Fort Collins, Colorado. The master plan provides a framework for future development of the park site, helps identify contemplated usage, and promotes and compliments surrounding properties in a manner consistent with park uses. The master plan was revised because a portion of the site was necessary for Riverside Parkway alignment which significantly impacted the initial master plan.

Budget: This master plan was budgeted and funded through the Riverside Parkway capital improvement fund.

Action Requested/Recommendation: Request that the City Council adopt the master plan as presented and prepared by EDAW, Inc., of Fort Collins.

Attachments: Las Colonias Park Master Plan – March 2007, 11” X 17”, 20 pgs.

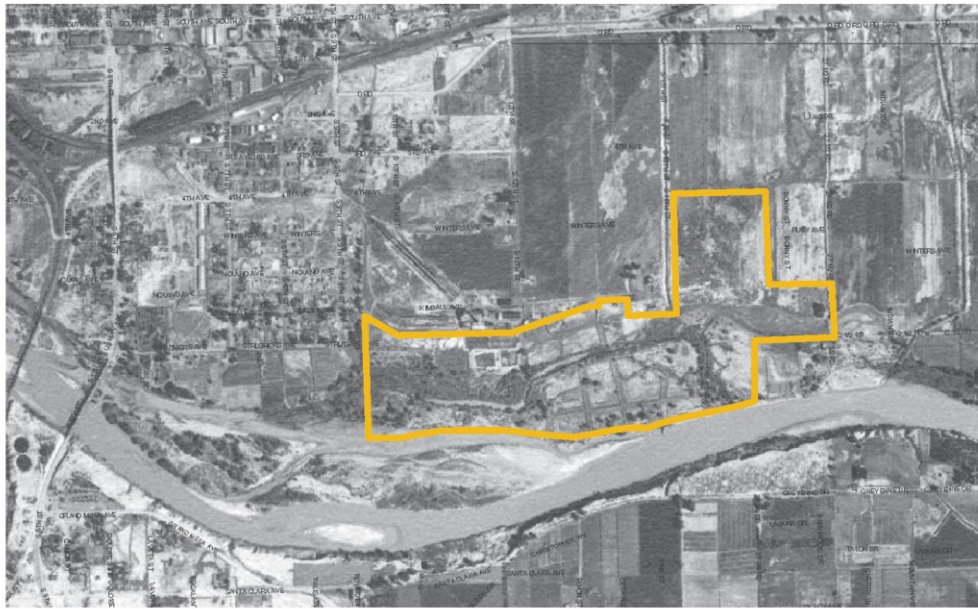
Background Information: Las Colonias Park Site was originally master planned in 1998 through the efforts of RNL Design of Denver, the plan was adopted at that time by the City Council. During the design of the Riverside Parkway, it was determined that the best alignment for the new roadway was across the northern end of the Las Colonias Park Site. Because so much of the previous master plan was reliant on the utilization of this portion of the park property, the construction of the roadway rendered the implementation of the master plan impossible. As a part of the Riverside Parkway project, the City selected EDAW, Inc. of Fort Collins in the spring of 2006 to begin the process of redesigning the master plan for the park site. Through several public open houses and meetings with focus groups, the master plan being presented was the culmination of a couple of alternatives reviewed and commented on by the focus groups and at the public open houses. A budget has not been identified for implementation of the plan.



Las Colonias Park Master Plan

March, 2007

Grand Junction, Colorado



1937 Aerial Photograph



1997 Master Plan *



Riverside Parkway

Introduction

Las Colonias Park is a 100-acre park located at the edge of the Colorado River south of Downtown Grand Junction. The park site is located near the confluence, or “grand junction”, of the Colorado and Gunnison Rivers. The site is a place of historic and cultural significance to the citizens of Grand Junction. A naming contest was held to find a name for the park. It was named after the colonies of people who worked in the sugar beet fields and peach orchards that once populated the area, which were known as “Las Colonias”. This name is of special significance to many residents, and pays tribute to the migrant workers of the community.

Later, the site was used as a collection stockpile site for uranium mill tailings. Many residents refer to the site as the Climax Mill Tailing site. Today, the site is largely vacant, with the exception of a segment of the Riverfront Trail system that passes through the site. The Riverfront Trail System is an extensive trail network that extends through the valley along the Colorado River corridor, providing a valued amenity for recreationalists and commuters. Las Colonias Park is envisioned as a “jewel” of the Riverfront Trail system.

In 1997, a master plan was prepared for the park. In 2006, construction began on Riverside Parkway, which provides a new east/west connection through the city. The design of the Parkway impacted the master plan for the Park, requiring the Plan to be updated.

** 1997 Master Plan not prepared by EDAW*



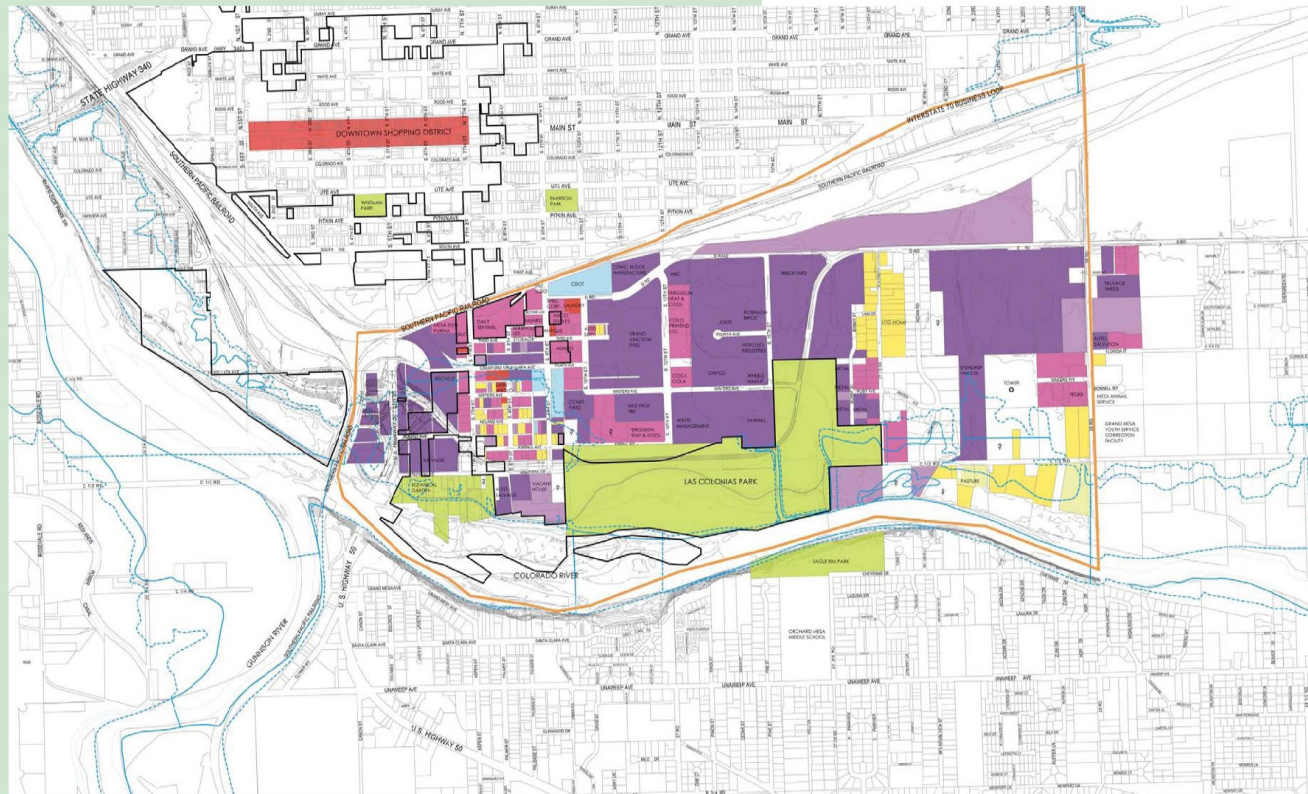
Downtown & South Downtown

The Las Colonias Park site is located on the southern edge of South Downtown. Located within walking distance from Downtown, South Downtown provides easy access to recreational amenities along the river, as well as convenient access to shopping and restaurants Downtown. It also functions as a gateway into Downtown from Highway 50. Its location and context establishes South Downtown as one of the most important places in the city.



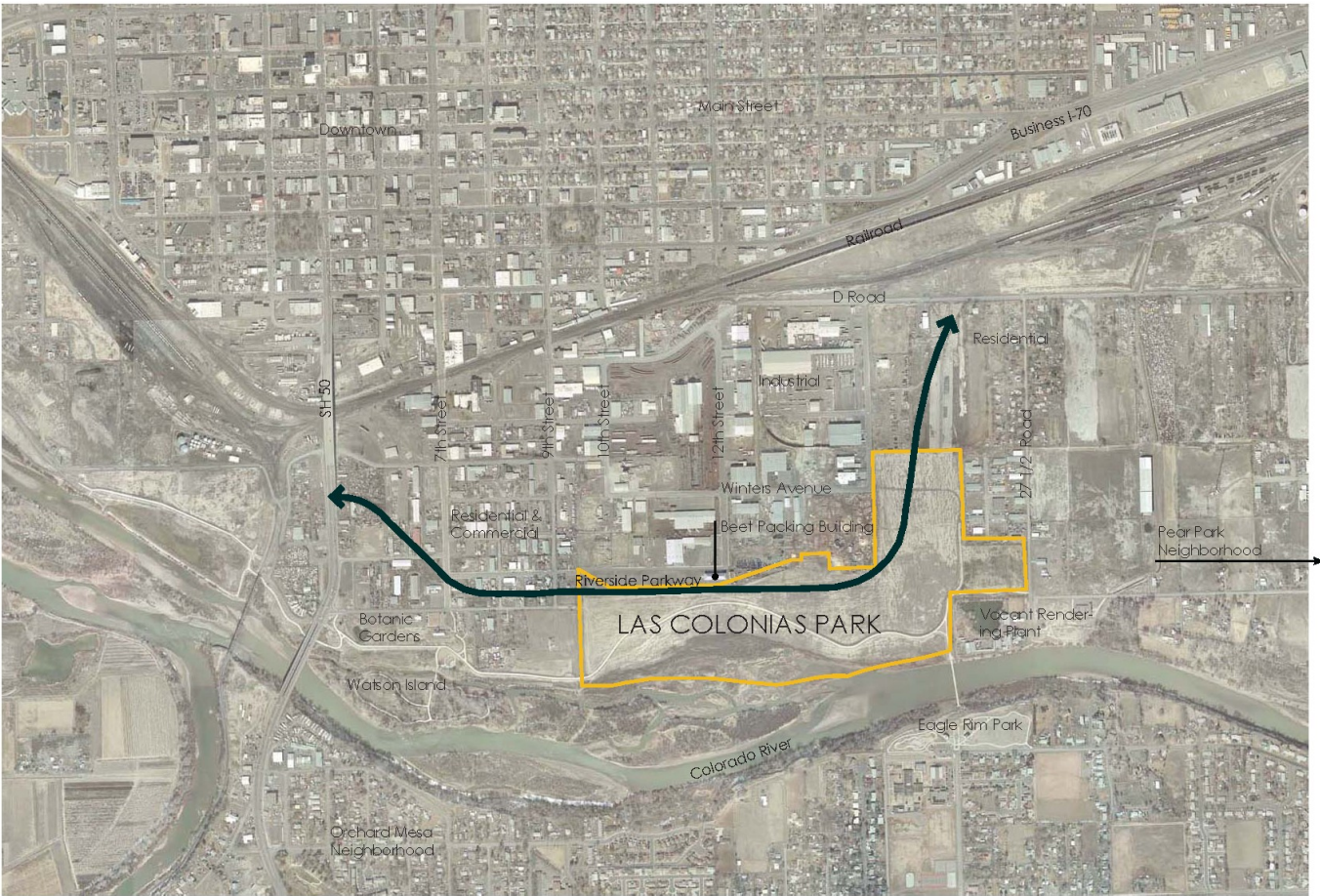
Land Use

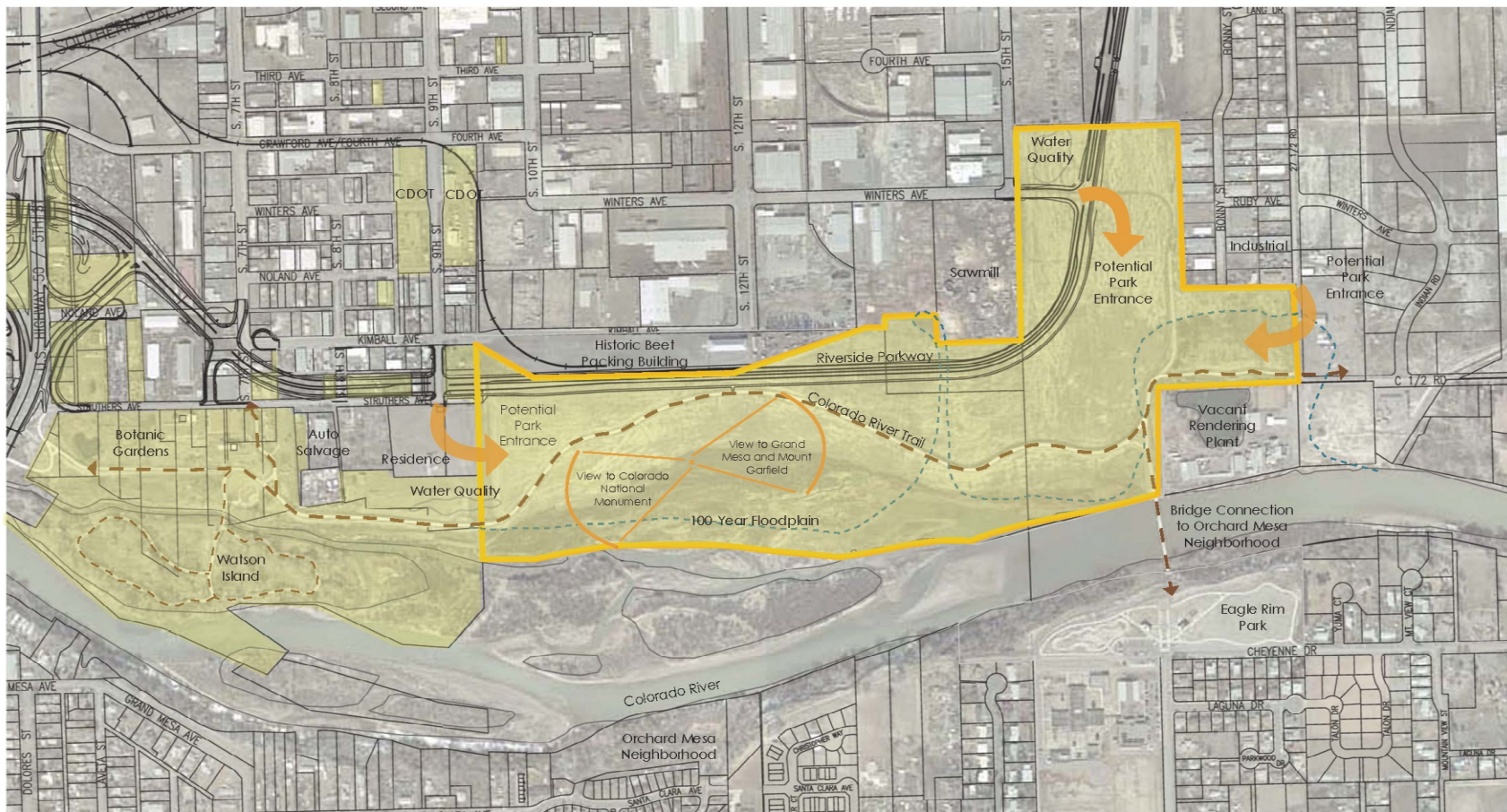
As part of the South Downtown Study prepared prior to the Las Colonias Park Master Plan, existing land uses within South Downtown were mapped. This map illustrates how adjacent land uses will inform the use of the park, as most of the adjacent land uses are commercial and/or industrial and are not occupied after business hours on weekdays, or on weekends. In order to maintain a safe and vibrant environment for park users, it is important for the park to include other programmatic elements that will attract visitors to the park after business hours.



Site Conditions

A Site Context Map and Site Conditions Map illustrate some of the opportunities and constraints of the site related to the adjacent properties. Contiguous parcels of City controlled property adjacent to the park site provides a unique opportunity to expand the park towards the Botanic Gardens along the Colorado River front, creating a contiguous cultural amenity for the community. Prominent views of the Mesa, the Colorado National Monument, and Mount Garfield are provided from the site. Potential entrances to the Park are located on the east and west boundaries of the site.





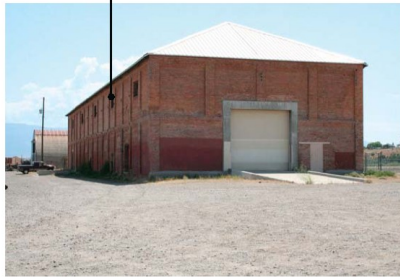
Public Controlled Property

Reclaiming the beautiful Colorado River as an amenity for the community is critical to the success and vibrancy of the Park. It is equally important in advancing a unique and distinct identity for the City as a whole.



Colorado River

The historic Beet Packing Building provides a unique redevelopment opportunity or other destination amenity near the river.



Historic Beet Packing Building

The pedestrian/bicycle bridge across the river defines a dramatic threshold between Las Colonias Park and the Orchard Mesa neighborhoods. The crossing announces arrival into a new district - South Downtown and Las Colonias Park. The park edge in its current condition lacks definition and a sense of arrival at this important gateway into the district.



Pedestrian Bridge

The berm adjacent to the trail provides flood protection for the adjacent structures. It is not FEMA approved, and will require reconstruction if its configuration is changed.



Bike Trail



View of Park Site from Eagle Rim Park Overlook



Eagle Rim Park



Eagle Rim Park Overlook

The amphitheater at the Botanic Gardens provides seating for approximately 300 people. A larger venue with approximately 1000 seats could provide a place for larger community events within the Park. Combined with the Botanic Gardens and other cultural amenities, a cultural/arts center could be created within the Park.



River Parks Trail



Pedestrian access across Riverside Parkway from nearby neighborhoods and industrial/commercial areas is key to the success of the Park.

Tamarisk at the river edge prevents access to the river, causing the river to be largely ignored and disconnected from the Park.



Las Colonias Park Site



Botanic Gardens



Riverside Parkway

Site Analysis

Public Process

A select group of local business owners, key stakeholders, and City staff members met together with the EDAW design team for a 2-day workshop on November 29 & 30, 2006. The goals of the workshop were to:

1. Present the design team findings of the Site Analysis to the advisory groups for review and comment.
2. Develop a set of park program elements for the Park.
3. Establish a set of clear goals for the project.
4. Develop some alternatives for the park for the advisory groups to review and discuss.
5. Present the findings of the design team and advisory groups to the public in an open house format.

A public open house was held on two consecutive nights for local residents to review the progress of the design team and advisory groups, and to provide their comments. Following the workshop, the EDAW team prepared a final master plan and aerial perspective rendering as a final product of the workshop discussions.

Park Program Elements

Program Elements

1. Trail and Trailhead (50 cars)
2. River Access
 - a. Non-motorized, hand-carried boats and rafts (put-in/take-out part of larger river boating experience)
 - b. Swimming (at own risk)
 - c. Fishing
 - d. Viewing and sitting
 - e. Whitewater course/kayak skills events
3. Group and Family Picnic, Events and Passive Play
 - a. Various size picnic shelters – range from small to large group (up to 200 people)
 - b. Adjacent lawn
 - c. Water feature/spray park and community playground
 - d. 2500-person multipurpose outdoor amphitheater (12 events/year?)
 - e. Disc golf (if space allows)
 - f. 500-1000 parking spaces (shuttle from downtown for major performances?)
4. Services, Amenities and Lighting
 - a. Bike and boat rental
 - b. Food concessions and nearby restaurant(s)
 - c. Drinking water
 - d. Restrooms
 - e. Benches, picnic tables
 - f. Low-level lighting for evening use and security
 - g. Sustainable, local materials and construction techniques
5. Riverbank Restoration
 - a. Tamarisk removal and re-establishment of cottonwood, willow, native grass complex
6. Botanic Garden (approximately 12 acres)
 - a. Master plan exists
 - b. Maintain existing 1000-person amphitheater with landscape seating
7. Festival Space (1-2 major events per year that cannot be accommodated downtown)
 - a. 5-acre open "commons" or lawn area

8. Dog Park (2-3 acres)
9. Land for Future Civic Structures
 - a. Recreation, community or senior center
 - b. Library
 - c. Arts center
 - d. Other

Project Goals

Project Goals

1. Create the "Jewel" of the Riverfront Trail System
 - a. Integrated with entire system, Botanic Gardens, Fifth Street Gateway, Jarvis property
 - b. Destination attraction and major trailhead
 - c. Attractive and inviting
 - d. Something for all ages and abilities
2. Focus on the River, Civic and Passive Leisure-Time Activities
 - a. Restore river habitats
 - b. Incorporate outdoor visual and performing arts opportunities
 - c. Provide spaces for self-directed, family and group activities
 - d. Provide visual and physical access to the river
3. Supports Investment in Downtown Living and Redevelopment by Providing Quality Open Space and Park Experiences
 - a. Strong pedestrian, bike and vehicular link to north along 7th Street
 - b. Clear pedestrian links to adjacent neighborhoods
 - c. Provide amenities for local residents
4. Public/Private Partnerships for Land Uses, Funding and Management
 - a. Explore possibilities for land swaps, sales, leases, etc.
 - b. Foundations, volunteer programs
 - c. Concessions
 - d. Incentives

Project Examples

The EDAW design team assembled a variety of project examples from across the country that illustrate potential program elements for the park. A range of approaches to waterfront development were also considered for the Las Colonias Park site. As shown in the images, these options range from a highly constructed waterfront promenade to a more naturalistic approach such as a meandering trail along the river. These different approaches were discussed in the workshop with the advisory groups in order to determine the best approach for the Las Colonias Park site.



Grass Slope Amphitheater



Concerts



Festivals



Soft Surface Trails



Grass Terrace Amphitheater



Fishing



Sports Fields



Hard Surface Trails



Hard Surface Amphitheater



Disc Golf



Kayak Run



Farmer's Market

constructed

naturalistic



Haihe River Embankment - Tianjin, China



Historic Arkansas Riverwalk, Pueblo



Miller Landing Park, Omaha



Miller Landing Park, Omaha



Allegheny Riverfront Park, Pittsburgh



Historic Arkansas Riverwalk, Pueblo



Stuyvesant Cove Park, Manhattan



Cuernavaca Park, Denver



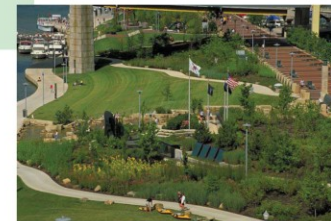
Allegheny Riverfront Park, Pittsburgh



Historic Arkansas Riverwalk, Pueblo



Harriet Island, St. Paul

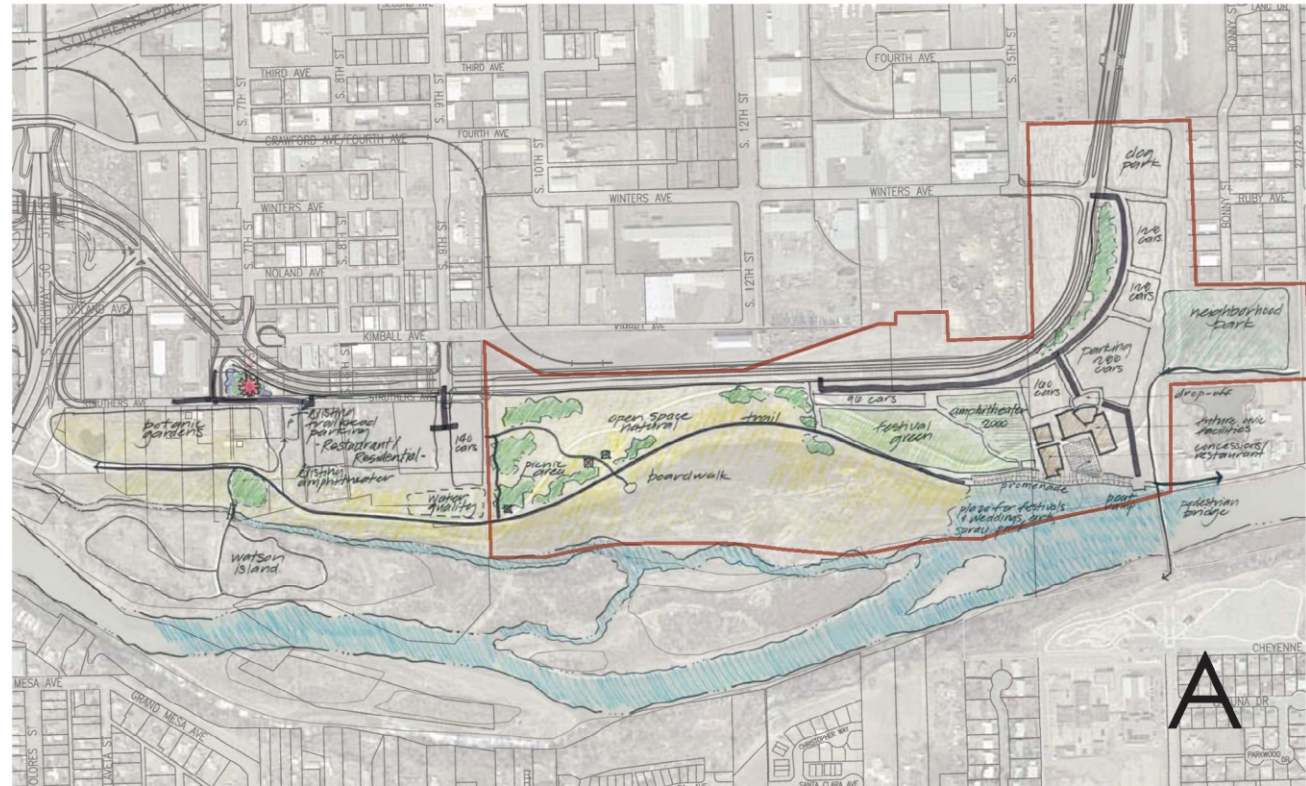


Allegheny Riverfront Park, Pittsburgh

Alternative A

After meeting with the advisory groups to develop the program elements and goals for the project, the EDAW design team developed two alternatives for the Park.

Alternative A includes a new civic facility at the river edge near the existing pedestrian bridge. This location was chosen because it provides a unique opportunity for the building to be located near the river edge, but out of the flood plain. The new civic facility may be a library, a recreation center, or other similar facility. The building anchors the eastern edge of the Park and provides an active place after normal business hours, which is an important step in keeping the Park a safe and vibrant place. A generous plaza overlooking the river provides a unique place for community events such as festivals, weddings, etc. An amphitheater and festival green are located adjacent to the civic facility, providing a large flexible gathering space for community events. The western edge of the Park is anchored by a new mixed-use development located at the existing trail head. This mixed-use development may include restaurants, residential, and retail uses. Combined with the Botanic Gardens, this development creates a unique cultural hub for the community at the river front. The center of the Park is kept open. The naturalistic character of this part of the Park is an extension of the character of the river. The bike path, picnic areas, and boardwalks near the river edge provide multiple and diverse experiences for park users.



Concept Plan

The EDAW design team presented Alternatives A & B to the advisory groups and to the general public in an open house format. These alternatives were evaluated and discussed to identify the best approaches from each Alternative. Following this comment and discussion, the EDAW design team prepared a final concept plan at the end of the workshop.

Anchoring the eastern edge of the Park, the Concept Plan includes a 75,000 sf civic facility, a generous terrace overlooking the river for weddings or other community events, a water feature/children's play area, a festival green and a 2,000-seat amphitheater, and an 800-space parking lot. A dog park and park maintenance facilities are also included along this side of the Park.

West of the Park boundary between the Botanic Garden and the Park, a privately-owned mixed-use center provides restaurants and appropriate retail uses, such as canoe and bicycle rental, and other river recreational focused businesses. An adventure course or other similar use is proposed on Watson Island, providing a unique place for children to play or a place for group team building exercises. A 100-space parking lot is provided near the existing trailhead, which expands the capacity of the existing parking lot. Near this parking lot, a small community playground, picnic shelters, and common green are located. These areas are clustered near the parking lot, providing easy access for frequently used functions.

At the center of the Park, a series of

boardwalks extends toward the river from the common green, providing a place for park visitors to explore the rich vegetation and wildlife of the river basin. This central area is restored as a natural area that extends to the river edge.

Phasing

The master plan is well suited for phasing, allowing the Park to grow over time, as funding comes available. The following is a suggested phasing approach:

Phase I

1. *Mitigate tamarisk along river edge.* This will open up the river edge, providing views and access to the river from the Park.
Approximate Cost: \$30,000

2. *Revegetate with native seed.* Amend park soils as necessary to accept native seed mixes, and install an irrigation system. This revegetation effort will make the Park more usable in the short term.
Approximate Cost: \$1,700,000

2. *Establish western entry into the Park.* This may require the City to acquire the private development parcel south of the 9th and Riverside Parkway intersection. This parcel provides access to the park on the west side.
Approximate Cost: \$235,000

3. *Construct new playground, picnic shelters, and commons area.* This will immediately activate the western edge of the Park, with visitors using these areas on a regular basis.
Approximate Cost: \$950,000

Phase II

1. *Establish eastern entry into park.* Construct park entry and small parking lot on eastern edge of the Park at Winters Avenue intersection.
Approximate Cost: \$235,000

2. *Construct dog park.* As with the community playground on the west side of the Park, the dog park will be used on a regular basis, and will help to activate the eastern edge of the Park.
Approximate Cost: \$375,000

3. *Construct Park Maintenance Facility.* Construct a new Park Maintenance Facility to house Park Maintenance equipment and supplies for Las Colonias Park, as well as other River Parks.
Approximate Cost: \$2,600,000

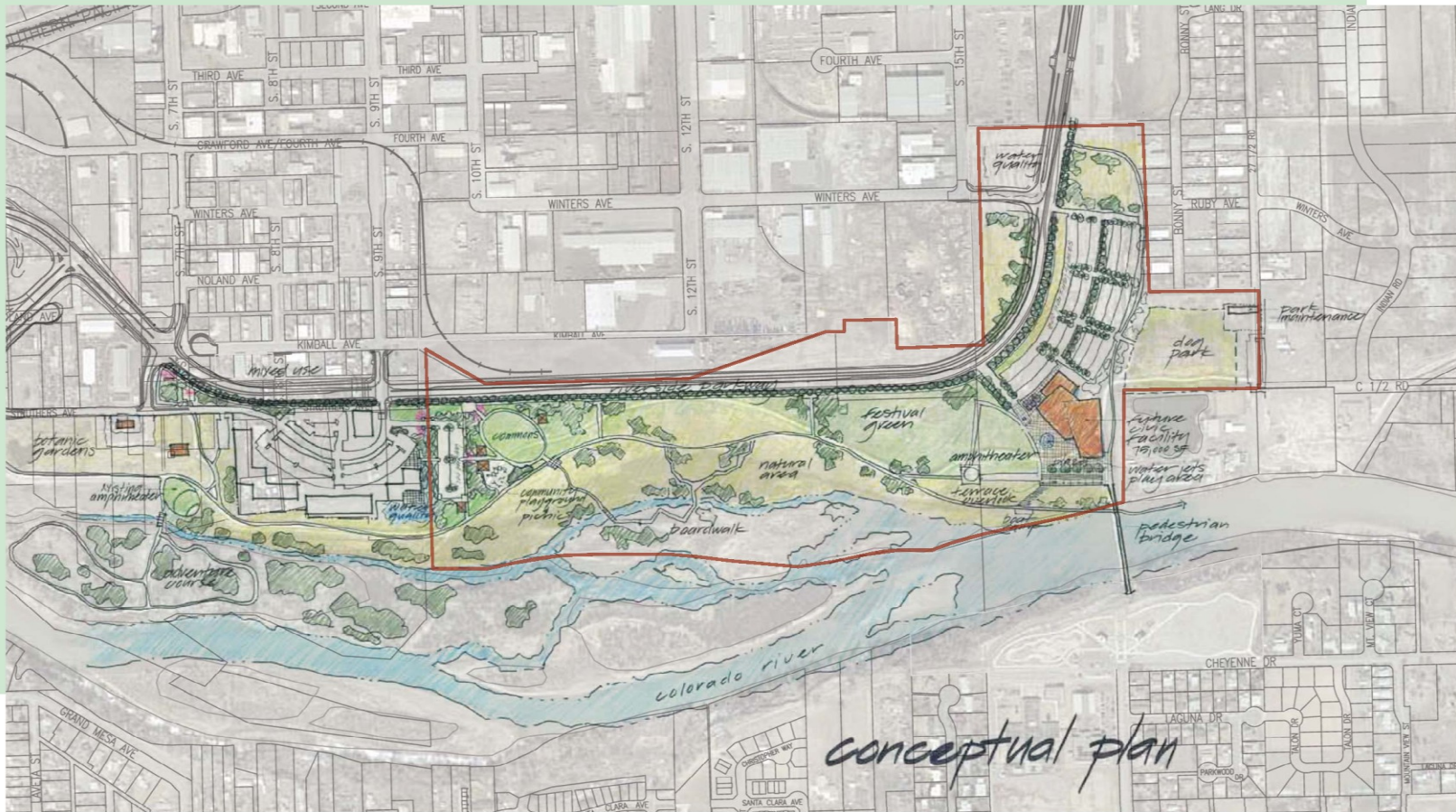
Phase III

1. *Construct future civic facility, terrace plaza, water feature, and expand parking lot.*
Approximate Cost: \$11,000,000

2. *Construct amphitheater and festival green.*
Approximate Cost: 3,000,000

Phase IV

1. *Establish Mixed-Use Center.* As the Park grows in popularity, private mixed-use development including restaurants, retail, and potentially residential will become more attractive to developers. This will be funded with private development dollars.



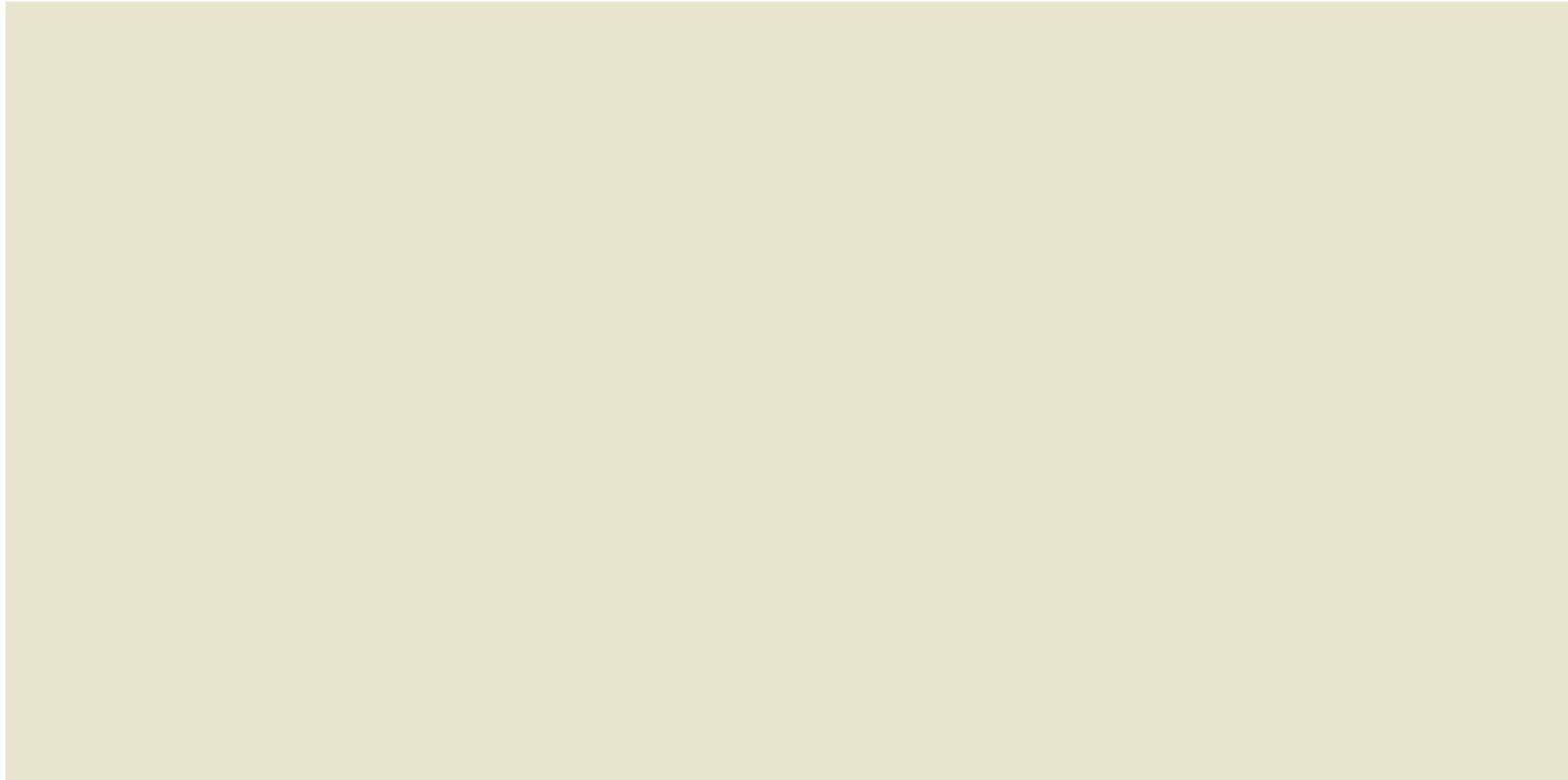


Master Plan





Aerial Perspective



EDAW | AECOM

240 East Mountain Avenue
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
970-484-6073

www.edaw.com

**Attach W-3
Air Quality Update**

CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA						
Subject		Grand Valley Air Quality				
Meeting Date		March 19, 2007				
Date Prepared		March 14, 2007			File #	
Author		Eileen List		Environmental Regulatory Compliance Coordinator		
Presenter Name		Perry Buda		Mesa County Health Department		
Report results back to Council		X	No		Yes	When
Citizen Presentation			Yes	X	No	Name
X	Workshop		Formal Agenda			Consent
						Individual Consideration

Summary: Perry Buda from the Mesa County Health Department Air Quality Division will provide an annual update on Grand Valley air quality issues. The update will include a summary of the recently completed local Air Emission Inventory Project and the need for a comprehensive West Slope air quality monitoring network.

Budget: NA

Action Requested/Recommendation: Schedule consideration of a Resolution at a future City Council meeting.

Attachments: Proposed Resolution.

Background Information: City Council signed Resolution #159-06 on January 6, 2007 that supported protection of Colorado’s Air from Oil and Gas Production Emissions. That resolution requested the Colorado Air Quality Control Division strengthen air quality in Western Colorado by adopting the “Denver air quality metro rule” on a statewide basis at an Air Quality Control Commission hearing.

Staff is asking Council to adopt an additional resolution that requests the Air Quality Control Commission direct the Air Pollution Control Division to establish an air monitoring network for ozone on the Western Slope of Colorado for purposes of obtaining baseline air quality data related to population and traffic growth and emissions from the oil and gas industry as well as other industrial sources and area sources with the region.

RESOLUTION NO.

A Resolution to Request the Air Quality Control Commission Establish an Air Monitoring Network for Ozone in Western Colorado to Protect Colorado's Air

WHEREAS, population growth and energy development is occurring at an unprecedented pace in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West; and

WHEREAS, the population in Western Colorado is expected to double by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the energy industry predicts as many as 400,000 new oil and gas wells will be drilled in the United States over the next 15 years, many of which are expected to be located in this state; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas exploration and production releases air pollution, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide; and

WHEREAS, the vehicles driven by the energy industry and increasing populace emit air pollutants that are precursors to ozone pollution; and

WHEREAS, air pollution from oil and gas exploration and production is only marginally controlled, if at all; and

WHEREAS, this air pollution contributes to the formation of smog, also known as ozone pollution, poses health threats to our communities, contributes to the loss of scenic vistas in Colorado's pristine areas, and poses threats to economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, air quality in Colorado will decline from increased air pollution from increases in populations and oil and gas developments; and

WHEREAS, air pollution problems may lead to economic sanctions, loss of business, and burdensome federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, Colorado counties and municipalities where residents have been impacted by the rapid increase in population growth and oil and gas development are unable to independently act under the current regulatory framework to reduce air pollution from this development; and

WHEREAS, other industries and private citizens in Colorado are doing their part to reduce air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission has the authority to act on air pollution problems, to be proactive, rather than reactive, in monitoring ozone concentrations resulting from vehicle and oil and gas development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Junction City Council requests that the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission require the Colorado Air Pollution Control Division to establish an Air Monitoring Network for Ozone on the Western Slope of Colorado for purposes of obtaining data related to population and traffic growth and emissions from the oil and gas industry as well as other industrial sources and area sources within the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Grand Junction supports the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission's efforts to proactively address air pollution problems throughout the state of Colorado.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED THIS _____ day of _____,
2007

APPROVED:

President of the Council

ATTEST:

City Clerk, City of Grand Junction

**Attach W-4
Global Warming Policy Statement
CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION**

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA						
Subject		C.A.S.T. GLOBAL WARMING POLICY STATEMENT				
Meeting Date		19 March 2007				
Date Prepared		15 March 2007			File #	
Author		David Varley		City Manager		
Presenter Name		David Varley		City Manager		
Report results back to Council		<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	When
Citizen Presentation		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/>	Formal Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Consideration

Summary: The Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) has developed a policy statement concerning global warming. They would like their member towns to adopt this policy statement.

Budget: There is no immediate budget impact unless City Council decides to implement certain practices. In that case, the cost will depend on the specific actions that Council decides to undertake.

Action Requested/Recommendation: Review and debate the merits of the attached policy statement and decide if Council wants to adopt a resolution adopting the policy statement.

Attachments: Global warming policy statement proposed by CAST

Background Information: The issue of global warming has been a big item in the news for several years. Numerous studies have been conducted to try and quantify and identify the problem, including the cause of global warming. Even though there is not a broad consensus among the scientific community, this issue has become very emotional and political for various reasons. We could spend the entire evening debating this topic and still not adequately cover all the issues. Instead, the purpose of this report is not to debate the different opinions on this topic but to report on the policy statement that CAST would like us to adopt, discuss what other cities have done to address this issue and what additional steps can be taken by our City.

Many CAST communities have adopted the attached policy statement and numerous cities around the country have adopted a stricter version which has been supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Their contention is that the federal government isn't taking the lead in this area, such as signing the Kyoto Protocol, so individual cities should take the lead by adopting policy statements and practices that will be implemented at the local level.

In February of 2005, many cities from around the country decided to address greenhouse emissions locally with the leadership of Mayor Nickels of Seattle. The U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement was therefore completed. There are nine Colorado Cities who signed this agreement (Aspen, Basalt, Boulder, Denver, Durango, Frisco, Glenwood Springs, Gunnison, and Telluride). CAST has discussed this and has developed the following policy statement that they would like member cities to adopt:

Colorado Association of Ski Towns Policy Statement Supporting Climate Action

The following policy statement was adapted from the 'Wingspread principles on the U.S. Response to Global Warming'. Individuals can sign on to the principles at

http://www.summits.ncat.org/energy_climate/statement.php .

Great communities rise to great challenges. Today, no challenge is more critical than global climate change. It reaches to the core of humanity's relationship with the Earth. It tests our capacity to make intelligent changes in our economy, policies and behaviors in the interest of all people and all generations.

Global climate change puts Colorado's quality of life and resort economy at great risk. Some resorts have already experienced warming *three times* the global average over the past 25 years. Most ski resorts have already been forced to adapt to decreased snowfall and a shorter season. Multiple studies now project an end to the ski industry by the end of the century under a 'business as usual' scenario.



The Colorado Association of Ski Towns member organizations, along with the State and Nation, must take immediate, comprehensive action against global warming, guided by these principles:

- **Urgency:** Global warming/climate change is real and it is happening now. Every year that we delay action to reduce emissions makes the problem more painful and more expensive - and makes the unavoidable consequences more severe. Local governments must lead by example in significantly reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in order to rally businesses and citizens into action.
- **Effective Action:** The scientific community now reports that significant GHG reductions should be made within the next 10 years, and communities should work to achieve a reduction in absolute GHG emissions by significant amounts by mid-century. Experience proves that voluntary measures alone cannot solve the problem. Aggressive government action, including mandates based on sound science, are imperative and must be implemented now.
- **Opportunity:** Mitigating global warming/climate change by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels offers the opportunity to create a new energy economy in Colorado that is cleaner, cheaper, healthier and more secure. This in turn will improve Colorado's overall quality of life and help protect the lifestyles upon which we all thrive.

- **State and National Solutions:** The U.S. government, the State of Colorado and civil society must act now to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of the actions of other nations. Because greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of climate change are global, however, the ultimate solutions also must be global. The U.S. must reengage constructively in the international process.

The CAST Policy Statement is not quite as strict as the one adopted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors. Their Climate Protection Agreement mentions, among other things, the following:

1. Reduce global warming pollution levels to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 1012.
2. Inventory global warming emissions in city operations and in the community and set reduction targets and timeline.
3. Adopt and enforce land use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space and create walkable communities.
4. Promote different transportation options such as car-pooling and bicycle use.
5. Increase the use of alternative energy.
6. Make energy efficiency a priority for city operations.
7. Purchase energy star equipment and appliances.
8. Use the U.S. green building council's LEED program.
9. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles through various methods.
10. Increase pump efficiency in water and wastewater systems and recover the methane from wastewater operations.
11. Maintain a healthy urban forest.
12. Help educate the public about reducing global warming pollution.



PROGRAMS ENACTED BY OTHER MUNICIPALITIES TO CONSERVE ENERGY AND/OR REDUCE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING

Aspen: The Canary Initiative: In March of 2005, the City of Aspen adopted a plan to aggressively begin reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This initiative calls for: a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, an assessment of impacts due to climate change, an action plan, and education and advocacy on regional, state, and national levels.

The Aspen Global Warming Alliance, which was created by the Aspen City Council, guides the City in implementing this initiative. This project is called the Canary Initiative.

The Canary Action Plan's overriding objectives are as follows:

1. Policy, Research, and Education
2. Buildings: Energy Efficiency
3. Transportation: Ground and Air
4. Electricity
5. Landfill: Waste Reduction and Recycling
6. Carbon Offsets: Local Energy Offsets, Forestry, and Other

So far, Aspen has used energy efficiency, transportation, recycling, and renewable energy to reduce emissions. To monitor this plan, a report detailing the progress will be written every two years.

The goals that have been accomplished are the following:

1. Forming the Aspen Global Warming Alliance to guide the city in implementing the Canary Initiative
2. Membership in the Chicago Climate Exchange
3. A comprehensive integrated Climate Impact Assessment
4. A greenhouse gas emission inventory for the City of Aspen to track the progress in reducing emissions
5. Increase the City's purchase of wind power
6. Establish a comprehensive, aggressive, and sustained public awareness campaign on global warming
7. The City has purchased hybrid electric vehicles for driving to out of town meetings.
8. City employees use a fleet of bicycles, electric bikes, electric cars, electric maintenance vehicles, or take the bus or walk to errands and meetings.
9. The City Parks Department is starting a pilot program using cleaner bio-diesel fuel.
10. The City uses 100% post-consumer recycled paper in copiers.
11. The City has solar trail lights and parking meters.
12. The City provides raw water for irrigation.
13. The Parks Department composts or chips all branches, grass clippings and leaves, to be used for mulch or compost.

By the end of 2006 the City of Aspen (government operations) reduced its emissions by 11.5% below 2005 levels. Aspen has also made a community reduction goal of 30% (below 2004 levels) by 2020.

Steamboat Springs: The City's "green team" hired The Brendle Group, Inc. from Fort Collins to evaluate the organization and create a Sustainability Management Plan (SMP). This process reviewed utility bills, fuel and water consumption, waste and recycling generation, and documented existing practices to raise awareness and provide a baseline for improvements. This document established recommendations and developed goals and suggested resources to help with new initiatives.

1. As of January 1st, the City of Steamboat Springs has operated the Howelsen Hill Ski Area by 100% wind power. The City is purchasing enough wind generated Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to offset 100% of the electricity needs for ski operations.
2. The city is looking into the possibility of adding solar panels to existing facilities to reduce energy consumption.
3. The City is in the process of revising its public benefit policies for Planned Unit Big-Box developments. Any future developments that fall under these guidelines will be required to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

(The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. The LEED Rating System was created to transform the built environment to sustainability by providing the building industry with consistent, credible standards for what constitutes a green building.)

Boulder: Environmental Affairs is a department in the City of Boulder that provides leadership to achieve Boulder's goals of sustainability and environmental quality. Their mission is to prevent pollution, reduce resource consumption and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

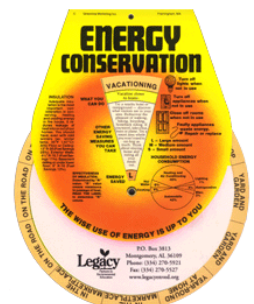
The city of Boulder has several programs that help to reduce the rate of increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Program areas include energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, solid waste reduction, transportation, open space acquisition and urban forestry. Additionally, the city helped dozens of local businesses receive utility rebates for lighting retrofit projects.

Currently, Boulder is completing a pilot program to collect organic waste, (food and yard waste) curbside from families living in five neighborhoods in Boulder. The program will test whether it is practical to collect yard and food waste from the curbside or alley on a regular basis. The food and yard waste collected during the pilot will be diverted from the landfill and recycled into valuable compost. The city of Boulder has a goal to divert 50% of the waste stream from the landfill.

Fort Collins (Climate Wise): Climate Wise is a voluntary program that is dedicated to helping local businesses and the environment. Through technical assistance and creative solutions, the City of Fort Collins helps businesses tackle challenges that impact bottom lines and the quality of life in Fort Collins.

The goal of the Climate Wise program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by

- promoting waste reduction;
- energy savings;
- alternative transportation;
- water conservation; and
- practicing pollution prevention.



Climate Wise [partners](#) are provided with free [technical assistance](#) by the Climate Wise team, [public recognition](#) and, publicity of their participation. The Climate Wise program is helping the City of Fort Collins meet some of its greenhouse reduction goals highlighted in the [Local Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) adopted by the Fort Collins City Council. So far, participating businesses are reducing over 95,452 tons/year of CO₂.

Eagle County (EcoBuild Program): The intent of the EcoBuild program is to encourage cost-effective sustainable building methods to create durable, energy efficient structures that conserve natural resources, promote the efficient use of building materials, and improve indoor air quality. [ECOBuild regulations](#) were adopted into the building code to promote energy and material efficient building design and construction practices. ECObuild applies to all new residential (single family, duplex, townhouse) construction per the currently adopted building code, as well as additions/reconstruction over 50% of the existing floor area, and exterior energy uses such as snowmelt, spas, and pools. A completed [ECOBuild checklist](#) must be submitted to receive a building permit application.

St. George, Utah: The Clean Green Power Program is a program designed to provide renewable energy to customers. Renewable energy projects can be more expensive than traditional sources of energy, but this program alleviates environmental concerns due to depletion of fossil fuels and green house gas emissions. The sources of renewable energy for the City of St. George are both wind and low impact hydro and revenues received through this program support not only this program, but provide funding for research and development of new projects (*Note: The City of St. George runs the electric utility*).

Telluride: Acting as a leader in the green building movement, the Town of Telluride recently adopted an ordinance requiring all residential new construction, additions and remodels to comply with green building regulations. The Green Building Code addresses many of the potentially harmful effects associated with building. The code is broken down into four categories: energy efficiency, indoor air quality, materials, and resource conservation. The Code does not apply to commercial construction at this time. The City has used green building techniques for its two affordable housing projects.

Telluride has been implementing ways to cut down on their own energy use and began the "Telluride Unplugged" Initiative in 2006. This was a 6-week campaign focused on educating and engaging the public about what they can do to reduce carbon emissions.

Crested Butte: Performance contracting: Starting in April 2006, the Office for Resource Efficiency (ORE) helped the Town of Crested Butte submit a Request for Proposal to choose an Energy Services Contractor. The RFP included an Energy Audit and an Energy Performance Contract. In June Siemens Building Technologies was chosen to perform the initial Energy Audit.

Items for Council Consideration and Discussion

1. The issue of global warming can become very emotional and political. We have stayed out of the politics of this issue but we continue to place a high priority on energy conservation methods and programs.
2. The City of Grand Junction has quietly been implementing energy conservation measures over the past several years. We have had numerous successes at the water treatment plant, the wastewater plant and in other operations.

3. We have been trying to reduce our consumption of energy because we believe it is the right thing to do. We believe we should be good stewards of the earth. However, we have not adopted or embraced a policy statement outlining our goals but we have accomplished many items that easily fall under the policy statements that have been put forward.
4. The City's Energy Conservation Team will review the energy audit report, review proposed conservation projects, review activities from other cities and make recommendations for additional projects.
5. Our conservation team will bring back several issues for Council consideration such as the purchase of hybrid vehicles, the installation of an E-85 fuel tank, a public education campaign and many other activities we may want to become involved with.

There are several items City Council may wish to address. The first item is the one that is before you tonight and that is the CAST policy statement. Would the City Council like to adopt such a policy statement or a similar policy statement that deals with global warming?

Also, are there specific practices from other cities that we should review and consider implementing in Grand Junction? Right now our efforts are focused on internal practices and policies.

As our conservation committee gets going we will be working on several issues which will come back to the City Council for direction. Some of these issues may be the expansion of our recycling program, the purchase of hybrid vehicles or a public education campaign to encourage energy conservation.



We have done some external work but that work mainly deals with our recycling program. Should the City consider adopting stricter standards for ourselves? Should we try to identify CO2 levels and then set a goal that would reduce this level over the next several years? Also, should we set a CO2 level goal for the entire community and work hard to achieve that goal?

Our focus so far has been mainly internal to our organization. Should we begin to look at educating the public and possibly requiring stricter standards in the future in order to keep our greenhouse emissions as low as possible?