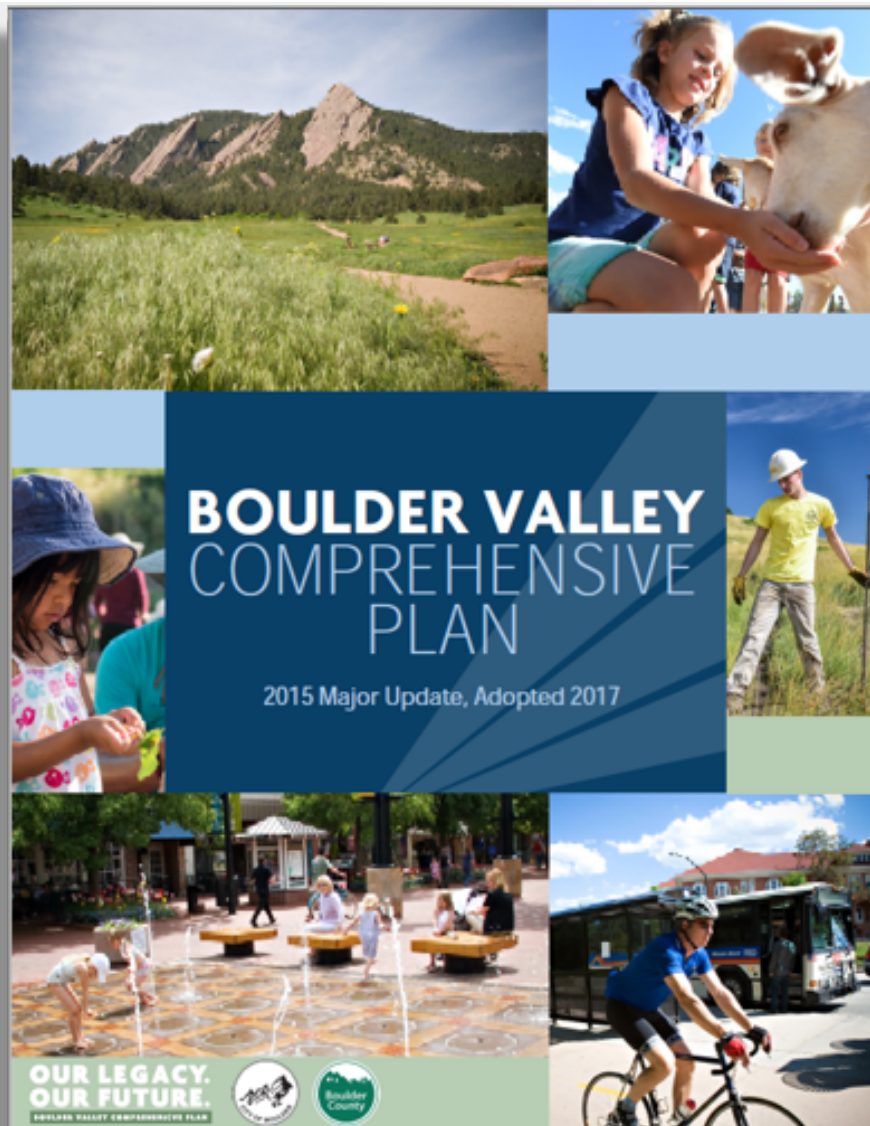


# Our Legacy. Our Future. Boulder Valley

Watch the Video





Fifty years ago, Boulder, Colorado was first in the nation to tax itself to pay for open space and multi-modal transportation improvements. Forty years ago, the city and county agreed to a comprehensive plan clearly delineating urban and rural areas and urban service limits. Since then, both entities have remained strongly devoted to the plan's core principles and sustainability while innovating new strategies.

In 2017, the City of Boulder and Boulder County updated the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan (BVCP) and an intergovernmental agreement to continue the legacy of planning and visioning initially adopted 40 years ago. Boulder is renowned for its open space (greenbelt), multi-modal transportation, and urban service boundary, all strongly influenced by the plan. It is indeed an honor to be recognized by the Colorado APA for this work.

### **Key Issues**

The seventh update incorporates adaptive solutions for the mid-21st century by advancing longstanding commitments to community-based planning, resource protection, urban service limits, and livability.



Emerging issues as well as long-term challenges were addressed, including:

- 20 new policies to address resilience -- disrupting shocks such as floods and fires
- Policies and action to plan for regional transportation – pressure resulting from being a jobs center.
- Direction for exploring creative but appropriate solutions for infill housing.
- Almost 20 new policies and actions to improve housing diversity and affordability and to address regional housing.

### **Creative Methods and Tools**

The foundational work addressed emerging trends, projections, and data to inform next steps, including the land use scenarios. One innovation was 3D story maps, shared with and emulated by other communities. Planners anticipate continuing and improving use of 3D mapping tools to depict future conditions, especially for area planning and implementation. Scenarios tested land uses, tradeoffs and economic viability of housing and non-residential uses. They led to refined directions in the plan about 15-minute neighborhoods, intensity in the “right” places, and the City Structure Map with its hierarchy of mixed use pedestrian-oriented districts and multi-modal corridors.



## Engagement

Planners invited everyone in the community to shape the plan, and awareness rose greatly, even in a place already steeped in planning. Civic organizations were highly involved and partnered with the city and county to reach under-represented constituents such as non-English speakers, young professionals, school children and youth. For two years, engagement stretched far beyond levels of six previous plan updates – reaching out to every household. Discussions centered around critical issues of change and challenges such as flood recovery and mitigation, other unknown future disruptions, and housing affordability.

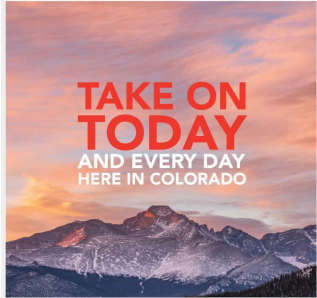
## Implementation

Even with “ink still drying” on a plan that was adopted by ordinance to increase its effectiveness, Boulder is at work: updating the Inclusionary Housing ordinance, amending the code for building heights, coordinating with CU on flood mitigation, preparing an “uncertain futures scenario model,” continuing redevelopment planning in Central Boulder, and calling for design excellence.



With a refreshed take on 40 years of cooperative planning, the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan is referenced daily in development review, annexation and a whole range of plans, programs and processes.

For more information on the plan or the update process, visit [www.bouldervalleycompplan.net](http://www.bouldervalleycompplan.net) or contact Jean Gatza, [gatzaj@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:gatzaj@bouldercolorado.gov), Phil Kleisler, [kleislerp@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:kleislerp@bouldercolorado.gov) or Nicole Wobus, [nwobus@bouldercounty.org](mailto:nwobus@bouldercounty.org)



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