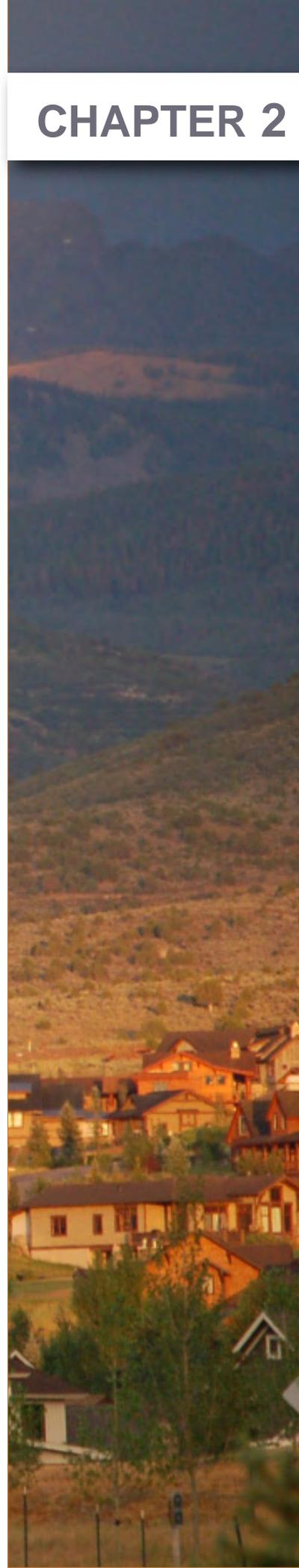


**CHAPTER 2:
Vision**



Vision

“Eagle will continue to be a high quality livable community through the implementation of strategies that will enhance the Town’s unique identity, its economic vitality, its sense of community and the quality and character of the surrounding rural lands.”

A master plan “vision” is one of the first outcomes of the planning process, and provides the foundation from which master planning goals, policies and strategies are constructed and organized. Vision statements express a desired future, and they can be simple or quite detailed in nature. Based on input from community meetings, a simple vision statement for the Eagle Area Community

Plan was drafted by planning staff and professional planning consultants hired by the Town. The draft statement was reviewed by the Town’s Citizens Advisory Committee and the Town of Eagle Planning and Zoning Commission, with suggestions provided by the Eagle County Planning Commission. The resulting Vision Statement for the 2010 Eagle Area Community Plan is shown above.



Broadway provides a traditional small town main street atmosphere.

Factors of “Livability”

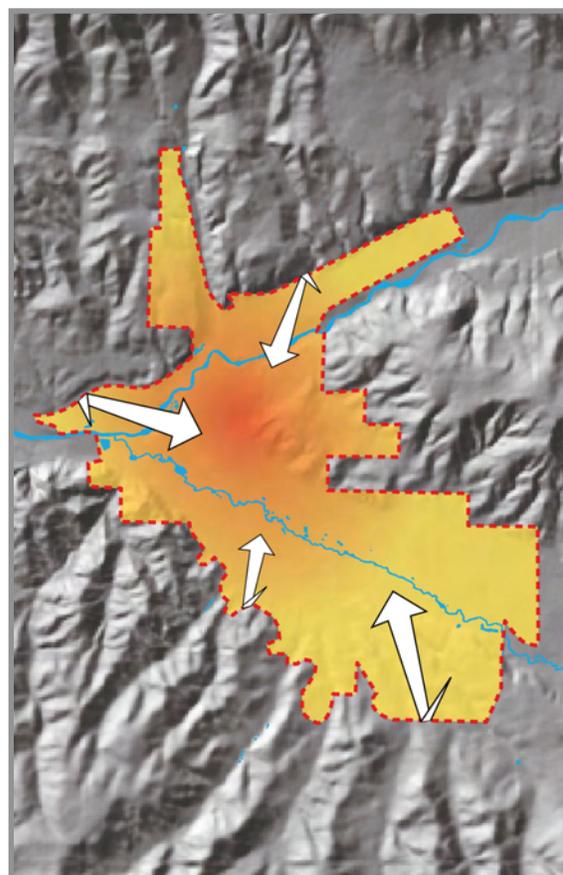
Integral to this vision for the Eagle community is the notion of “livability.” The process of identifying “factors of livability” unique to the Town of Eagle and the surrounding unincorporated countryside involved three community meetings and the input of many citizens, business owners, government officials and land management agencies. This effort resulted in a list of eleven planning approaches that are considered integral to the Town’s new vision statement.

1) Concentrate Urban and Infill Development

The Town of Eagle’s identity draws on its history and its rural western character. Recognizing the strong spirit of connection that exists between the residents of Eagle and the character of the community, a part of the vision for Eagle should be to preserve and enhance the Town’s identity by maintaining a well defined, efficient, and compact development pattern surrounded by ranches and large open tracts of land. As the Eagle community grows, new development should occur within or adjacent to already developed areas to minimize a sprawling development pattern in the agricultural and rural parts of the surrounding countryside. Infill and redevelopment builds on the Town’s established use patterns

and promotes a community form that is pedestrian friendly with interconnected neighborhoods and improved access to alternative transportation options. The Future Land Use Map emphasizes infill and the concentration of development within and adjacent to the Town’s existing urbanized areas.

The 1996 Eagle Area Community Plan established an Urban Growth Boundary for the purpose of maintaining a clear distinction between urban and rural land use patterns. The Urban Growth Boundary for the 2010 Plan has been modified (see Future Land Use Map in



A defined Urban Growth Boundary concentrates development and discourages urban sprawl.

Chapter 4), but carries this intent forward, encouraging infill and compact development on lands that are most appropriate for municipal growth. It is the intent of this plan that development over and above that allowed by current zoning should not be approved on lands outside the Urban Growth Boundary.



Annual Eagle County Fair and Rodeo

2) Maintain the Area's "Sense of Community"

Community input received through the planning process for this Plan clearly demonstrated people's belief that the Town of Eagle is a great place for singles, families and seniors to call home. There are good jobs, good schools, wonderful recreational opportunities, and strong social networks that bind the community together. People's basic needs are well served and they feel safe in Eagle's streets, businesses and other public

places. Citizens are involved in their town, and are committed to furthering the physical and social connections that provide a sense of community.

The unique character of Eagle as a progressive rural community surrounded by



ShowDown Town concert series in the Eagle Town Park

Community events add excitement, identity and an opportunity for people to come together

open lands, mountain vistas, and expansive blue sky should be maintained and/or enhanced to ensure that the Town continues to be an attractive place for people to live, tourists to visit, and for businesses to find success. The Town and County should work collaboratively to preserve elements of small town character and to maintain the rural land uses and lifestyles in outlying areas that surround the Town. The design of the built environment should promote established community values, enhancing the visual quality of the area's natural and man-made surroundings. Future developments should also be responsive to the influences of changing economic and demographic needs, as well as new and evolving design, construction and transportation technologies.

3) Develop a Comprehensive, Integrated Transportation System

The Town, in collaboration with the County and CDOT, should work to improve mobility in the Town by providing a comprehensive, integrated and multi-modal connectivity and transportation system that effectively addresses pedestrian and bicycle systems, roadway networks, and public transit options, with a goal of reducing dependence on the automobile.

The Historic Town (please reference the Future Land Use Map in Chapter 4) of Eagle is reasonably compact, providing a development pattern that encourages walking and bicycling. This pattern should be reinforced by maintaining the Historic Town as the heart of the community and by working to improve efficient connections to surrounding destinations through a network of streets, paths, and open space corridors.



Conversely, development north of U.S. Highway 6 and closer to the Interstate is very auto-oriented, as are some of the newer residential neighborhoods which are lo-

Access to public transportation is an important livability factor

cated a considerable distance from the Historic Town. Measures should be taken to make these places more interconnected and more conducive to walking and the use of bicycles.

4) Promote Stewardship of Natural, Scenic, and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The unincorporated rural lands that surround the Town of Eagle contribute significantly to the Town's identity and the

lifestyles enjoyed by local residents and the experience of visitors to the area. As such, the quality and character of the Eagle River Corridor, the Brush Creek Valley, the agricultural lands east and west of Town, and the Eby Creek and Castle Peak areas north of Town should be preserved. The Town and County should work collaboratively to protect natural, scenic, and environmentally sensitive areas through a variety of means including public education, open space acquisition, the promotion of activities and events related to the area's



The scenic beauty in and around Eagle attracts many visitors and significantly enhances the quality of life enjoyed by residents.

agricultural heritage, the development of design guidelines for unincorporated areas, the monitoring of land use impacts and the enforcement of applicable standards.

5) Protect and Preserve Wildlife Habitat and Corridors

Maintaining the livability of the Eagle Planning Area involves the protection of wildlife habitat and corridors. Activities such as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing enhance recreational opportunities, and bring visitors to the area who contribute to the local economy. The Town and County should continue to work with the Colorado Division of Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to protect and preserve wildlife habitat and movement corridors by implementing necessary strategies and mitigations over time to ensure sustainable and healthy wildlife populations throughout the Planning Area.

6) Develop a Proactive Open Lands Program

The Town of Eagle and Eagle County should follow the recommendations of their respective open space plans. The Town and County should continue to be proactive in their approach to maintaining open lands, us-

ing a variety of techniques to preserve viable agricultural lands, river and stream corridors, critical wildlife habitats, steep slopes, ridgelines, areas of geologic hazard and quality viewsheds as permanent open space.

7) Maintain and Enhance Recreational Opportunities

Active and passive recreational opportunities are important to the lifestyles of local residents and visitors. Demand for recreational facilities and amenities, both natural and man-made, will increase over time, and should be met through the acquisition and appropriate management of open space areas, the creation of additional trails and public land access points, and the creation of additional parks, recreational fields and recreational centers. The State of Colorado Small Community Park and Recreation Planning Standards should be utilized where ever applicable and practical.



Open lands enhance views, provide recreation, and protect sensitive areas.

8) Provide Affordable Housing

Affordable housing can be difficult to find in the Eagle Planning Area. Many forces contribute to this shortfall, including rapid population growth, a limited supply of appropriately-sized units, a limited supply of affordable land for new units, and housing prices that have risen far faster than local incomes. The result is an increase in the number of cost-burdened households, with an increasing number of people per dwelling unit, multiple jobs, and a workforce that often commutes long distances.

Ideally, people who work in Eagle should be able to live in Town or in the surrounding area, and the people who live in Eagle should not have to commute great distances to find good employment. Therefore, as the community grows, a variety of housing types and price points should be maintained, and businesses that offer higher paying jobs should be encouraged to locate within the area.



Some of Eagle's newer housing options

9) Diversify and Balance the Economic Base

Recent community input has indicated a continuing desire to avoid a shift to a resort-based or second-home community. Instead, the Town should look for other viable and unique opportunities to diversify its economic base in order to provide the revenues necessary to fund future infrastructure and service needs.

10) Preserve Historic Resources

Through the years, the Eagle Planning Area has been able to maintain much of its western historical character, particularly within the Town Center Character



Old Brush Creek Schoolhouse

Area. The preservation of the area's cultural heritage and historic resources should remain an important goal for both the Town and the County. Elements of historical or cultural importance should be identified, and partnerships for funding and preservation assis-

tance should be actively supported and pursued.

11) Provide Infrastructure and Public Services Efficiently and Equitably

The Town of Eagle should continue to work in partnership with public and private organizations to assure that Town's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance is adhered to, and to maintain and en-

hance existing public infrastructure and services. The Town and County should work together to coordinate with the appropriate public agencies for future development and provision of capital facility projects, services and infrastructure, including water, wastewater, fire protection, emergency management services, police protection, schools, parks, transportation needs and other utilities that affect the livability and economic stability of the community.



