



FORGE LARAMIE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Laramie Soup Kitchen

University of Wyoming

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THE LARAMIE COMMUNITY

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Keep moving, there's plenty more ahead!





CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Laramie – the Gem City of the Plains – is a special place among mountain west communities. It is both remote in its location and interconnected to several natural wonders within a short drive: the Happy Jack Recreation Area and Vedauwoo, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Pilot Hill Recreation Area and Wildlife Habitat Management Area, and the Snowy Range Mountains. The City's roots extend beyond the natural environment and recreational amenities. It is Wyoming's center for higher education and is home to the University of Wyoming, the state's only 4-year university, WyoTech, and the Laramie County Community College. This combination of natural amenities and higher education has created a highly attractive and eclectic community that has a thriving downtown and small business sector, high-quality schools, active community engagement in events and civic life, and is a growing tourist destination. Residents lovingly call their city Laradise.

While many nearby communities in the Rocky Mountains have experienced extreme growth and the corresponding public pressures to serve and protect new households and population, Laramie has maintained a healthy 2 percent growth rate over the years. This has allowed the City to continue to prosper at a fiscally manageable pace. However, the City is not immune to the national housing crisis, evolving economic dynamics, and fiscal challenges for local governments in Wyoming. To maintain a healthy growth rate into the future, evolving from a smaller to a mid-size community, Laramie will need to address several key issues:



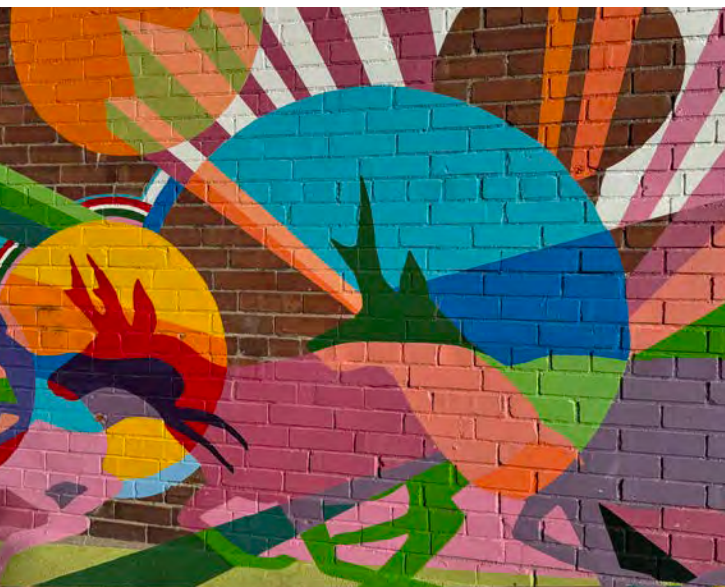
CITY OF LARAMIE

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LARAMIE'S VISION

In 2050, Laramie is envisioned as a community that continues to grow sustainably (2% annual rate) and is home to a growing number of young families and worker households. City efforts to plan for sustainable growth support business expansion and retention and offer new employment opportunities for early career workers. A focus on designing neighborhoods and commercial centers that are connected and vibrant provides new housing choices, shopping options, and dining and entertainment venues that can be accessed through walking, biking, taking transit, or driving. City leaders are focused on maintaining and enhancing existing assets while taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities to expand Laramie's infrastructure networks and strengthen its economic position in the region.





- **Business growth and economic development in Laramie are directly intertwined with the need for housing that is attainable to the local workforce.** Without an affordable place for their workers to live, businesses cannot grow or locate within the city.
- **Many UW students and younger residents aspire to work in and permanently locate to Laramie. Access to well-paying jobs and affordable housing opportunities are needed to make this happen.** Higher paying jobs that are attractive to younger workers can help spur economic development and fiscal health of the community.
- **Progress has been made to support active transportation options in Laramie, such as walking, biking, and taking transit. Additional investment in network connectivity and user safety would make the City's transportation system even better.** More work is needed to address safety, interconnectivity, and the harsh travel conditions the city experiences most winters.
- **State statutes limit the amount of revenue that local governments in Wyoming can generate, reducing funding available to pay for public services and facilities.** Additional spending reductions may further impact the City. This is in addition to the fact that the City is not home to significant oil and gas reserves, which are large sources of public funding for many Wyoming communities. It will be even more important in the future for the City to strategically prioritize use of its revenues and take an "all government" approach with departments working collaboratively together toward the same community goals. This will be critical for maintaining a vibrant community that attracts new residents and businesses.

- **The Laramie Growth Area Plan is a partnership effort between Laramie and Albany County to plan for areas of growth on the edges of the city within the County's planning and zoning jurisdiction. This plan needs to be fully implemented to appropriately direct and efficiently serve new development.** Continued efforts to work with Albany County to support plan implementation are needed.

The Laramie community is larger than just its local government. It is made up of key community organizations and institutions, businesses, residents, Albany County, and state agencies. Achievement of community priorities set out in this plan will require teamwork across the broader Laramie community with the City serving as the primary convener and coordinator. Together, Laramie and its partners are forging new policy and implementation paths through this plan to create the next chapter for a more vibrant and livable Gem City of the Plains.

WHY PLAN?

PURPOSE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Much has changed in the 18 years since Laramie's 2007 Comprehensive Plan was adopted. Not only has Laramie's population outpaced the growth projections in the 2007 Plan, but the community also experienced the impacts of many local and national trends like shifting growth and migration patterns brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, workforce housing shortages, the growth of remote work and school, diversifying transportation needs, zoning and land use reform, evolving technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI), and a movement towards ensuring growth is more sustainable and resilient. The comprehensive plan is an opportunity to evaluate and discuss these changing community dynamics, set priorities for the future, and develop an action plan to implement the priorities.

While comprehensive plans are inclusive of a broad range of community planning topics (development, housing, transportation, public services and facilities, parks and recreation, tourism, economic development, etc.), they are focused on physical planning and how these other planning topics influence development and conservation efforts in the city.

Developing the comprehensive plan provides a once in a generation opportunity to reflect on the past, consider the future, and forge a new plan for Laramie's growth and infrastructure to support the community priorities of the City.



THE PLANNING CYCLE

This comprehensive planning effort represents the first step in the City's larger planning cycle, which is the process of establishing City policy priorities, translating those priorities into staff work plans, allocating funding to support the work plans, using that funding to initiating projects that advance City policies, and then coming together as a community to assess overall plan implementation.

CITY OF LARAMIE

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WHY PLAN?

COMPLIANCE WITH WYOMING STATE STATUTES

Local land use plans are required by Title 9, Chapter 8, Article 3 of Wyoming State Statutes (WY Stat §9-8-301). The Forge Laramie comprehensive plan was created in accordance with these statutes and shall be used in conjunction with other adopted plans to guide development within Laramie's jurisdiction.

ABOUT THE FORGE LARAMIE PROCESS

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

This plan was generated from a robust and intentional community engagement process entitled "Forge Laramie." Over the course of the 18-month process, the project team sought input from residents, children, local workers, business owners, local organizations, regional partners, elected and appointed officials, and numerous other stakeholder groups. Both in person and online opportunities were provided, as described below.

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

In June of 2025, the project team conducted 21 interviews with City staff, elected officials, representatives of educational institutions, community groups, and others with an interest or role in implementing the comprehensive plan. The purpose of these initial interviews was to help evaluate how well the 2007 plan served Laramie's needs, and to identify common themes that should be addressed through the Forge Laramie process. A summary of key themes from these interviews was prepared and served as a baseline for understanding current community issues. These themes were then explored through public engagement activities to

confirm their broader applicability with City residents and business owners.

COMMUNITY TABLING

Throughout the summer of 2025, the project team attended a variety of public events to introduce the community to the Forge Laramie project. These events included the Blue Devils concert at War Memorial Stadium, the WyoTech Car Show, Laramie Pride Fest, Freedom has a Birthday, Laramie Soup Kitchen, Laramie Farmers Market, the Jubilee Days Parade, and the Albany County Fair.

FORGE LARAMIE QUESTIONNAIRE

From June to September 2025, community members had the opportunity to participate in an online questionnaire and mapping exercise where participants were asked what they liked most about Laramie, what changes they wanted to see, and what they wanted to stay the same. A fun flyer was mailed to every household in the city to notify them of this engagement opportunity. More than 800 responses were collected.





ABOUT THE FORGE LARAMIE PROCESS

FORGE EXCHANGE

From January to March of 2026, the Forge Laramie team oversaw a pop-up event, called the Forge Exchange, located downtown in the Laramie Main Street building. The Exchange included three rounds of interactive engagement activities designed to elicit feedback related to housing, economic development, and downtown/commercial corridor development. In addition to walk-in activities, the Forge Exchange series also included a general open house reception to kick off the exchange and a listening session sponsored by AARP (who provided grant funding for the activity). In total, 104 walk-in and 42 special event attendees participated in the Forge Exchange.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING STUDENT-LED SURVEY

As part of their spring 2026 coursework, a group of University of Wyoming (UW) students conducted a survey to gather feedback from higher-education students about life in Laramie during and after graduation. More than 300 UW, Laramie County Community College, and WyoTech students participated in the survey and the results are shown in call out boxes and helped inform development of the plan's policy direction.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Seven meetings were held with the project Steering Committee throughout the Forge Laramie process. The Steering Committee was made up of Laramie residents and representatives of community partner organizations and agencies who provided feedback on the goals, policies, and actions included in the updated plan, as well as changes to the Future Land Use map.

DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW

[To be drafted following the final round of community engagement]

TECHNICAL FOUNDATIONS

2007 PLAN ASSESSMENT

An in-depth review of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan goals and action statements was conducted in the fall of 2025 to evaluate the breadth of policy guidance provided as it relates to Forge Laramie themes and identify opportunities for improvement in the updated plan. This analysis serves as the basis for preparing the updated plan, and was modified to reflect community and Steering Committee inputs and guidance provided by the Planning Commission and City Council.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

The Technical Analysis was published in January 2026 and includes data on existing conditions, trends, and projections to provide a common understanding around land use-related topics as they exist in Laramie today and to ground policy discussions held as part of the Forge Laramie process. Key trends that were foundational to the Forge Laramie process include:

- **Laramie's population has experienced moderate growth and is stable.** As of 2023, Laramie had a population of 31,848 residents. The city's population is projected to increase by 10 percent, or 3,300 people by 2040. This population growth is projected to outpace that of Albany County (9 percent) and Wyoming (6 percent).
- **Household income is relatively low.** Laramie has a median household income of \$52,414, which lags behind the median household income of



Albany County (\$59,881) and Wyoming (\$74,815; although the state's median household income is slightly skewed by Teton County, which is \$112,681). Almost half of Laramie households earn less than \$50,000 in annual income, compared to a third of state households.

- **Housing costs are rising.** The median home value reached \$302,000 in 2023, representing a 56 percent increase since 2013. Renters are also feeling the squeeze in the hot housing market, with 45 percent of renters spending more than 35 percent of their income on housing, making them severely cost-burdened (and leaving less money for other necessities, such as healthcare and transportation).

- **"Brain drain" remains a challenge.** The city has a younger-than average population strongly influenced by the presence of higher-education institutions. However, many residents leave after early adulthood in favor of job or housing prospects elsewhere, creating challenges for workforce retention and long-term economic stability.

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

PLAN FRAMEWORK

The Laramie Comprehensive Plan is organized through a Plan Framework that articulates the highest level of community priorities all the way down to the specific actions the City and its partners will take to achieve its vision. The Laramie Plan Framework, as shown here, sets the organizational structure of this document and provides policy and implementation guidance for City leaders, staff, community partners, and residents that will support implementation of this plan.



COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

Informed by key themes that arose during the Forge Laramie process, the Community Priorities express the big ideas that the plan is designed to accomplish and are the organizing titles of plan chapters. The following five community priorities are the key areas of focus for the plan.

Traditional planning elements are organized under each of these Community Priorities.



	DESCRIPTION	RELEVANT PLANNING ELEMENTS
 WORK AND PROSPER	the City's focus on economic development, supporting and expanding tax base through land development, and new housing in key focus areas	WORKFORCE AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY FISCAL HEALTH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
 LIVE AND BELONG	the City's aspiration to attract students, new working families, and new businesses to lay permanent roots in Laramie	HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS PLACEMAKING
 CONNECT AND NURTURE	the City's objective to provide a safe and accessible multimodal system that connects people to destinations and recreation, and promotes public health	TRANSPORTATION PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC HEALTH
 STEWARD AND CONSERVE	the City's commitment to serve as a steward to its natural resources and improve resiliency to hazards	NATURAL RESOURCES HAZARD RESILIENCY
 SERVE AND COLLABORATE	the City's ongoing efforts to provide fiscally efficient public services, facilities, and infrastructure and transparent governance	PUBLIC SERVICES PUBLIC UTILITIES GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

The Forge Laramie comprehensive plan serves as a blueprint to guide land use, development, and growth over the next 20 years. While this plan provides the overall vision and high-level policy guidance for the physical development of the city, it is supported by a variety of other topical focused plans and policies the City has adopted, and will adopt in the future. Relevant plans are referred to in applicable Plan chapters.



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Keep moving, there's more to see!





CHAPTER 2

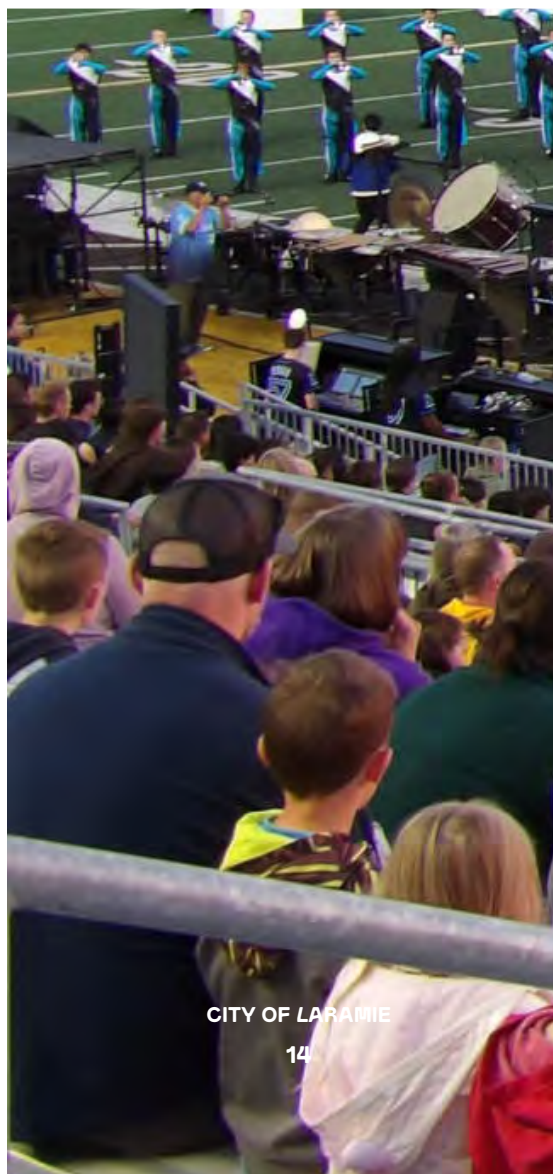
WORK AND PROSPER





Laramie's future success as a mid-sized, western city that offers a diversity of economic opportunities, a natural playground within the eastern Rockies, and a pleasant quality of life will be realized through the growth and prosperity of the businesses and workers that call the city home. The benefits of this growth will support the city itself, increasing the fiscal health of Laramie to support needed public investments and improve the city's built environment. The City's focus is on fostering economic resilience through housing development, business expansion, workforce development, and entrepreneurship; and encouraging strategic land development that supports sustainable growth and long-term service delivery.

These themes were prevalent in the 2020 Thrive Laramie Community and Economic Development Action Strategy, and remain relevant today. Thrive focused on strategies related to investing in target industries and the built environment, growing a highly-skilled workforce, supporting business diversity and entrepreneurship, improving business-critical infrastructure, and enhancing quality of life amenities to improve Laramie's quality of place and economic competitiveness. This Comprehensive Plan revisits these themes, incorporating strategies that augment those from Thrive Laramie, maintaining a continuity of focus on these issues that are so critical for Laramie's economic future.





WORKFORCE AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

LARAMIE TODAY

Laramie's local economy is supported by several large industry clusters, many of which are higher-education related. Government is the largest regional employing industry, as University of Wyoming employees are classified as government workers along with Albany County School District, the City of Laramie, and Albany County. Health Care and Social Assistance is the second most concentrated industry, and there is significant healthcare job demand, with an average of more than 70 Healthcare Practitioners and Technical positions posted in Laramie each month. Accommodation and Food Service and Retail are also large employing industries, which support Laramie's high quality of life and tourism economy, but may be putting downward pressure on wages.

Laramie has a median household income of \$52,414, which is lower than the median household incomes of Albany County (\$59,881) and Wyoming (\$74,815). Almost half of Laramie households earn less than \$50,000 in annual income, compared to a third of

state households. Laramie's lower median household income is likely influenced by the presence of the University of Wyoming, both because of the large number of full-time students who work fewer hours per year, and because UW, the city's largest employer, pays relatively low wages. Despite lagging behind Wyoming median incomes, Laramie household incomes have been increasing at a rate that surpasses that of the state overall.

Median income also significantly varies across age groups in Laramie. For workers in Laramie under age 45, median incomes lag the state, but Laramie median incomes for workers aged 45 years and older surpass the state's median. This breakdown shows that Laramie's income gap is age-driven, not structurally economic. At the same time, wage growth is picking up for younger workers, with 22-24 (77 percent) and 25-34 (61 percent) year old workers experiencing outpaced wage growth between 2013 and 2023. Supporting workforce development and retention strategies could help sustain the high-



er-earning 45–64 cohort and strengthen the city's long-term economic base.

As a college town, Laramie has a greater share of young adults than the state overall. Given the presence of the University of Wyoming, Laramie residents also lead the state in educational attainment, particularly in terms of professional degrees. More than half (55.8 percent) of Laramie residents aged 25 or older have attained at least a Bachelor's degree.

In-migration (people moving to Laramie) is also largely driven by young people, most of whom are likely college-age students relocating to attend the University of Wyoming. In addition to traditional college-age students, 36 percent of 25–34 year olds, 18 percent of 35 to 44 year olds, and 20 percent of 45 to 54 year olds also relocated to Laramie within the last year. Common migration origins and destinations include Laramie County and Natrona County in Wyoming, and Larimer County and Weld County in Colorado. This indicates that people are interested in staying in the region, but are open to moving to nearby communities. This is likely for better job prospects, as individual incomes do not surpass state medians at any educational attainment level, and particularly lag for those with advanced degrees.

Overall the economy in Laramie is growing, with jobs projected to increase 7 percent over the next 10 years, following historic growth patterns, and making it competitive among peer communities. Working age employment share is also growing, with the number of working age adults aged 35 to 54 steadily increasing in Laramie since 2017. Nearly two-thirds of jobs in Laramie are filled by residents, indicating a strong live-work relationship and abundant job opportunities within the city limits. This is further reflected in commuting patterns, with 70 percent of residents traveling less than 10 miles to work.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

As Laramie monitors conditions like brain drain, from both UW graduates and other professionals leaving the area for employment elsewhere, and decline in enrollment in the ACSD, which is likely tied to the movement of young families to other communities, it is important to prioritize solutions that retain and attract talent and lead to the expansion of well-paying local jobs in large and growing industries.

To support its local talent base and economic growth, Laramie should focus on workforce development programs with direct pathways to employment in local industries, especially for entry-level workers, encouraging wage growth to stay competitive with nearby and college-town peer communities, and economic development policies that encourage new businesses and industries to open in Laramie while retaining existing employers.

Housing availability, quality, and cost is another major factor affecting both business and workforce attraction and retention, and strategies aimed at addressing housing are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3: Live and Belong.

Expanding economic development opportunities in Laramie will occur through partnership efforts that leverage the capabilities and skills of the City and its local partners. Laramie is positioned to serve as a strategic convenor and facilitator of discussions and collaborative economic development efforts. It also serves as a property developer and regulator of private sector development. Other entities, such as the Laramie Chamber Business Alliance, Main Street Laramie, Visit Laramie, the University of Wyoming, Albany County School District, Laramie County Community College-Albany County Campus, WyoTech, and the Wyoming Business Council are important partners in these efforts and support workforce development, training, and job creation efforts more directly.

GOAL 1 MAINTAIN A STRONG WORKFORCE PIPELINE THAT IS WELL-POSITIONED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOCAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1.A TALENT ATTRACTION AND RETENTION

Reduce brain drain, target graduates who have left to pursue opportunities elsewhere, and generally attract a broad talent base that is well suited for Laramie's local economy, through partnerships and collaboration efforts aimed at recruiting and retaining graduates, young professionals, and workers of all ages.

1.B WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Support the local workforce through career pathway promotion, training and skills development, and education. These efforts should be coordinated with local employers to better match employee skills and experience with industry needs, and create a more direct pipeline for job seekers to local industries.

1.C WORKER COMPENSATION

In partnership with employers, launch efforts to increase wages for local workers, which are relatively low compared to median wages in the county, state, and among peer communities.

GOAL 2 ADVANCE ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH TARGETED INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

2.A BUSINESS ATTRACTION AND RETENTION

Focus on attracting and retaining businesses in target sectors, such as healthcare and hospitality, to provide additional economic opportunities for residents and new arrivals to the region.

2.B TOURISM SECTOR GROWTH

Build on Laramie's strengths in tourism, enhancing focus on outdoor recreation, main street, and visitors drawn to the city's unique history and culture.

2.C ENTREPRENEURIAL SUPPORT

Support entrepreneurs and small businesses through business planning, startup resources, financing, mentorship or coaching between new and seasoned entrepreneurs, and more.



WORKFORCE AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

WLE.1: Develop a marketing strategy for the region to support talent recruitment and retention, including features like local employer spotlights, a jobs board or talent-engagement portal, an ambassador program for new recruits, cost of living index, and quality of life benefits.

WLE.2: Explore incentives, like a relocation bonus, remote work stipend, housing assistance, or a forgivable loan program for students who remain in Laramie working in their respective field for a certain period of time after graduation.

WLE.3: Regularly convene and survey local employers and target industry leaders to identify their labor needs and minimum skill, qualification, and experience requirements.

WLE.4: Coordinate with local education and training institutions to create new programs, or expand or refine existing classes and curriculums, based on industry feedback. Focus on fields like the trades and healthcare support.

WLE.5: Work with area businesses and UW to strengthen student retention pipelines (internships, co-ops, and “stay interviews” with University of Wyoming students before graduation). Establish opportunities for more exposure to career pathways and direct hiring, such as apprenticeship programs, job shadowing, a mentorship program for job seekers by business leaders and retirees, and on-the-job training.

WLE.6: Work with housing builders to identify the most effective incentives or barriers to remove to expand early-career housing options

(attainable rentals, roommate-friendly units, employer-assisted housing)

WLE.7: In partnership with UW and the Chamber of Commerce, enhance social/professional networks for young professionals (peer groups, leadership programs, community integration).

WLE.8: Work with partners to create clearer post-graduation pathways by aligning local job opportunities with degree programs and improving visibility of those jobs.

WLE.9: Consider the development of an industry leadership network where businesses can identify common challenges, access resources that can help advance shared goals, learn from one another, and implement innovative solutions and best practices from other regions and industries.

WLE.10: Explore joint initiatives to reduce individual business costs, like transportation solutions, multiple employer health plans, and investments in shared childcare facilities.

WLE.11: Develop a business attraction and recruitment strategy for target industries that includes relevant City data and market reports, such as top industries, population and labor force statistics, available properties and shovel ready parcels, land and construction costs, taxes, permitting fees, development times, and testimonials from business leaders about the benefits of operating in Laramie.

WLE.12: Create business attraction and recruitment strategies in alignment with the Public Health goal, policies, and action of this

Plan and the Work Well Wyoming resources from the Wyoming Department of Health, such as the Workplace Policy Toolkit. Support existing businesses in implementing the Workplace Policy Toolkit for prevention, safety, and well-being in the workplace.

WLE.13: Partner with economic development organizations and employers throughout the region to collaborate on a regional business retention strategy.

WLE.14: Partner with economic development, quality of life nonprofits, and tourism partners to coordinate a cohesive marketing campaign to a variety of audiences.

WLE.15: Support tourism-supporting businesses, such as hospitality, retail, dining, and lodging, through business development initiatives like mini-grants, tax incentives, and specialized job training and employment perks.

WLE.16: Enhance overall visitor experience through gateway and corridor improvements, beautification efforts, walkability, and more complete digital infrastructure.

WLE.17: Increase the frequency of special events that bring in additional visitors to the community.

WLE.18: Audit small business resources to identify service and resource gaps and promote existing support-ecosystems to local entrepreneurs and potential movers to Laramie.

WLE.19: Increase entrepreneurial education and training within K-12 and higher education curriculum.



FISCAL HEALTH

LARAMIE TODAY

Wyoming generates its state revenues from a unique mix of sources, including sales and use taxes, property tax, and investment income, with a strong reliance on its natural resources. Unlike much of Wyoming, however, Laramie does not benefit from significant mineral royalty disbursements, which currently represent just 6 percent of the City's revenue.

The state does not allow corporate or individual income tax, and the City's tax base is subsequently primarily residential-and service-oriented. As a result, Laramie is limited in the ways it can raise funding to cover budgeted expenses, like maintaining essential infrastructure and public safety, quality of life improvements like parks, recreation, and public services, and economic development projects that increase local economic



CITY OF LARAMIE REVENUE SOURCES

FISCAL YEAR 2026

vitality. In addition, in 2025 Wyoming passed a 25 percent residential property tax reduction, which will further constrain Laramie's ability to cover these services.



WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Laramie's population grew 17 percent since 2000, reaching 31,848 in 2023. That growth is expected to continue, with Laramie projected to increase by 10 percent, or 3,300 people between 2020 and 2040, a growth rate that is expected to outpace that of Wyoming (6 percent) and Albany County (9 percent). Despite the 2025 state property tax cuts, this population growth can nevertheless unlock additional property and sales and use tax revenue, and the city should be strategic about how they plan to use this funding.

In general, Laramie needs to identify additional revenue sources to invest in the initiatives, programs, and services identified in this plan to achieve its goals and long term vision for community success.

GOAL 3 OPTIMIZE LOCAL TAX REVENUE GENERATION TO SUSTAIN FISCAL HEALTH

3.A POPULATION GROWTH-RELATED REVENUE

Plan for how the City of Laramie can benefit from future projected population growth and resulting capture of additional sales and use and property tax revenue to enhance community vibrancy. It is equally critical to take steps to maintain the city's expected population growth to ensure these benefits are realized.

3.B LOCAL-OPTION TAX

Explore an additional local-option tax to support community goals. Wyoming statute allows counties to impose up to three cents in addition to the statewide four percent sales and use tax. The City of Laramie currently relies on the "5th Penny" local option sales tax to cover the cost of local public services and the "6th Penny" Specific Purpose Excise Tax (SPET) to finance major, long-term infrastructure and capital construction projects. A 7th Penny could be levied for either general use or SPET purposes.

GOAL 4 IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL REVENUE SOURCES TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING VISION

4.A LOCAL USER REVENUE

Audit locally controlled revenue sources like service fees, licenses, and permitting as a critical tool for sustaining the City of Larmie's fiscal health. Examples include recreation fees, solid waste charges, mosquito control fees, and utility fees.

4.B GRANT FUNDING

Identify grant opportunities to support City priorities and special projects related to economic and community wellbeing. Due to state statute, Laramie is limited in its ability to raise money through taxation to cover operating expenses for projects that lead to increased economic vitality, and grants provide a way to augment existing revenue sources.

4.C TOURISM EXPENDITURE CAPTURE

Investigate and advocate for ways to generate additional tax revenue and, where possible, fees from arts-oriented, cultural (including sports and history), and recreation-related activity, to help further develop the tourism-related ecosystem and contribute to overall fiscal health of the City.

FISCAL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

FH.1: Strategically budget for new revenue sources, based on the priorities identified in this plan.

FH.2: Weigh benefits, need, and ability to use additional general purpose versus specific purpose tax revenue, based on the nature and scope of upcoming projects and

FH.3: Evaluate current local user charges to determine where adjustments may be made to increase revenue potential while maintaining parity with other peer communities.

FH.4: Develop a priority list of projects that may require additional philanthropic funding.

FH.5: Identify funding partners including foundations and specific grant funding opportunities that may help the city reach its goals.

FH.6: Understand the current state lodging tax disbursement structure and opportunities to lobby for additional funding allocation.

FH.7: Develop a tourism expenditure capture strategy focused on increasing length of stay, visitor spending per trip, and reducing economic leakage.

FH.8: Enhance gateway, corridor, and wayfinding infrastructure to better direct visitors into downtown and commercial areas to increase local spending.

FH.9: Establish a data-driven approach to track visitor behavior, length of stay, and spending patterns to inform future investments and strategies.



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

LARAMIE TODAY

Laramie is a regional center for education, culture, and economic activity with a reputation as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship and a high quality of life for residents. Population trends suggest Laramie will continue to grow, with young adults and university-related migration playing a major role in shaping the community's workforce. While the city benefits from a highly educated population, incomes tend to lag behind state averages, and housing affordability and availability continue to be a growing concern. Local development constraints—such as rising land and construction costs, the presence of the Casper Aquifer to the east, and substandard water and utility infrastructure near developing areas—help explain the general decline in building permits issued since 2000.

At the same time, Laramie has land available to accommodate future growth. The City has identified more than 3,000 acres of land suitable for housing infill and redevelopment within existing developed areas, presenting opportunities to use existing infrastructure efficiently and reinvest in established neighborhoods. Public utilities, such as water, wastewater, and solid waste, generally have capacity to support future development, although aging distribution systems may require targeted upgrades to support growth in desired areas.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Throughout the Forge Laramie process, participants have expressed the desire for the City to take a proactive role in attracting and coordinating economic development and housing investment in the community. The following goals and policies establish a framework for guiding growth and development in a way that strengthens Laramie's economy and capitalizes on the efficient use of public infrastructure. Laramie will continue to support community priorities related to housing and economic opportunity by coordinating land use decisions with capital improvement investments and adopting regulations that support economic opportunity while maintaining the quality of life valued by community members.



GROWTH TERMINOLOGY

Laramie has history of supporting well-managed growth as part of land use planning efforts. The following terms are used throughout this document to describe different types of development opportunities:

GREENFIELD DEVELOPMENT

Development on lots that have not previously been developed.

REDEVELOPMENT

Development on lots with existing buildings where all or most of the existing buildings would be removed and a new building or buildings built. Redevelopment generally occurs in established commercial areas or neighborhoods where there is an emerging pattern of decline and disinvestment.

INFILL DEVELOPMENT

New construction on open pockets of land, including individual lots and vacant properties, surrounded by existing development.

ADAPTIVE REUSE

The process of converting an existing building to a use other than that for which it was originally designed.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 5 SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STRATEGIC LAND USE PLANNING

5.A LAND USE VARIETY

Provide opportunities for a range of land uses at a variety of scales and intensities that are consistent with the City's Future Land Use and Character Framework and supported by existing and planned infrastructure capacity.

5.B EMPLOYMENT AREAS

Support the locational needs of new and expanding businesses through the identification of sites for mixed-use and nonresidential development, including modern business parks with prime office and industrial spaces, mixed use employment centers, and downtown shopfronts.

5.C MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Expand allowances for mixed-use development throughout Laramie. Support the creation of residential units above ground floor commercial and office spaces downtown and in designated mixed-use areas.

5.D JOBS-HOUSING ALIGNMENT

Designate sites for housing development at a variety of sizes and price points (such as apartments, townhomes, and small lot detached homes) near employment centers and along major corridors.



5.E INFILL AND REDEVELOPMENT

Continue to encourage the creative use of vacant and underutilized sites through infill, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse as consistent with the goals and policies of this Comprehensive Plan.

GOAL 6 ENSURE LAND USE REGULATIONS SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

6.A DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Ensure the Unified Development Code and associated development review procedures are understandable, flexible, and result in desirable development outcomes. Consider adopting streamlined permitting procedures for proposals that align with City economic development objectives.

6.B IDENTIFIED LAND USES

Regularly review and update the Unified Development Code to ensure new, cutting-edge land uses (such as data centers) are identified, defined, permitted in appropriate zoning districts, and regulated to offset potential nuisances.

6.C ADAPTIVE REUSE

Incorporate standards into the Unified Development Code that enable flexibility in the adaptive reuse of existing buildings as needs change over time. Identify and remove regulations and procedures that prevent reinvestment in nonconforming properties.

GOAL 7 COORDINATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT DESIRED DEVELOPMENT

7.A BUSINESS-READY INFRASTRUCTURE

Conduct small area utility service studies along key corridors to identify infrastructure deficiencies and associated improvements that would make land available for development. Prioritize the timing of improvements in areas where the highest possible cost benefit will be realized.

7.B INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY

Designate compact areas of concentrated development to facilitate economical and efficient provision of utilities, public facilities, and services. Encourage infill and redevelopment where excess utility capacity is available. Include periodic upgrades, as necessary, to utilities and services in capital improvement plans if sufficient capacity is unavailable in targeted redevelopment areas.

7.C WEST LARAMIE IMPROVEMENTS

Require street paving and stormwater management infrastructure to be constructed as part of subdivision, development, and redevelopment projects in West Laramie to spur reinvestment and reduce maintenance costs associated with poor drainage.

7.D BROADBAND IMPROVEMENTS

Incentivize developers to contribute to Laramie's broadband infrastructure through programs such as density bonuses, property tax abatements, grants, low interest loans, preferential fee structuring, rebate or payback programs, cost sharing for on-site or off-site improvements, priority status for development review, and flexible facility standards to off-set the cost of construction.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Tier 1 actions to:

- Create a New Development Services Advocate Position
- Prepare "Roadmaps" for Prospective Businesses to Assist with Land Development Process
- Improve City Customer Service Call System
- Update the Unified Development Code
- Map Infill Sites for New Development and Promote via City Website

GD.1: Prepare a West Laramie revitalization plan or conduct a focused study to identify and provide recommendations for needed infrastructure improvements such as streets, sewer, water, parks and public services, beautification, sidewalks and economics.

GD.2: Review the utility and service capacity in and around targeted redevelopment areas and upgrade facilities to support planned development intensities, as needed.



CHAPTER 3

LIVE AND BELONG





Laramie is committed to a future where a variety of households and people can find a place to call home. By fostering welcoming neighborhoods, housing that is attainable for the next generation of workers and their families, and vibrant public spaces, the City seeks not only to attract new residents, but to ensure that those who already call it home feel valued, connected, and inspired to stay.





HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS

LARAMIE TODAY

NEIGHBORHOODS

Laramie is home to a variety of neighborhood designs, from the oldest traditional neighborhoods that include different housing options along the same streets, to more recently built neighborhoods that generally support one style of housing. Key to the steady growth of the community is the reputation of the City's high quality of life and neighborhood options and quality are a key factor in supporting that growth.

As the City looks to address critical housing challenges that are being faced locally as well as nationally, the design of neighborhoods and the long-term maintenance of infrastructure that support them are critical considerations. Balancing the need generally for more housing stock and more specifically for affordable housing options with quality design of neighborhoods is necessary for long-term success. Looking to local models where a variety of housing options are proximately

located and designed in a compatible format can be instructive for the design of new developments.

HOUSING SUPPLY

A constrained housing supply is a persistent challenge for many communities, including Laramie. A lack of housing supply and choice limits the ability of Laramie residents to find affordable/attainable housing, put down roots, or age in place. Of the stakeholders engaged during the Forge Laramie planning process, 47 percent ranked more housing in their top three desires when responding to the question, "What do you want to see change here?" As one stakeholder shared, "Housing is the major issue in our community. Good quality, and a mix of housing types is needed."

In total, Laramie has just over 15,000 housing units. Of those units, 2.7 percent, or just over 400 units were for rent or for sale in 2024. Ideally, communities want to have some level of vacancy (between 5-8 percent for rental housing) to allow



for relocation of households, prevent rental lock-in, and support a healthy housing market. However, Laramie's relatively low housing vacancy rate indicates the presence of a tight housing market, which may be associated with higher rents and fewer housing choices for residents.

While this is not a concern that is unique to Laramie (nationally, vacancy is trending downward due to constrained supply), it does affect the city's ability to attract and retain residents, leading to difficulties for employers looking to hire and for new businesses to justify locating in the area. This means that the lack of available housing supply has a direct impact on economic development, limiting the amount of job growth that can occur in Laramie.

TABLE 3.1: TOTAL HOUSING OCCUPANCY VERSUS VACANCY

	HOMEOWNER UNITS	RENTAL UNITS	TOTAL UNITS
Occupied housing units	6,221	7,918	14,139
Vacant housing units	663	495	1,158
Total housing units	6,884	8,413	15,297

Source: Census ACS 2023 5-year

Laramie remains fairly consistent in housing production since the 1990s. However, Laramie's level of production remains behind relative to peer communities. Of peer communities, Laramie is in the bottom half regarding shares of homes built since 2000. Laramie is not just producing fewer lower-priced homes, it is producing less housing overall.

TABLE 3.2: SHARE OF HOMES BUILT SINCE 2000

LOCATION	SHARE OF HOMES BUILT SINCE 2000
Bozeman, Montana	48%
Gillette, Wyoming	38%
Flagstaff, Arizona	33%
Ellensburg, Washington	32%
Missoula, Montana	32%
Pullman, Washington	28%
Fort Collins, Colorado	28%
Moscow, Idaho	25%
Laramie, Wyoming	25%
Logan, Utah	25%
Corvallis, Oregon	23%
Casper, Wyoming	23%
Cheyenne, Wyoming	22%

Source: Census ACS 2023 5-year

Declining home production has also led to a lack of housing choice, with stakeholders citing a greater variety of housing types as a need. For example, while most Laramie households are composed of one or two people, with the average household size (2.1 people) slightly lower than the state (2.4) and national (2.6) averages, more than half of Laramie's housing supply is composed of single-family homes. Additional housing options are needed for smaller households that many not desire or need a traditional single-family home.

HOUSING COST

At the same time, housing costs are increasing. Home values in Laramie are increasing, outpacing the state. Overall, the median value of Laramie and Wyoming homes has increased by more than 50 percent since 2013, with Laramie (\$302,000) leading the state (\$285,000) in both change and dollar value. Since 2013, Laramie and Wyoming have seen a reduction in the number of homes valued under \$200,000 and a general increase in higher value homes. Housing costs in Albany County are also high due to land values and local construction costs.

On average, resident incomes are too low to afford existing housing stock. Laramie has a median household income of \$52,414, with a home value to income ratio (which compares housing costs to household earnings, with a common guideline suggesting a home's price be 3 to 5 times your annual income) of 5.8. While Laramie's home value to income ratio is less severe than many peer college communities, it is the highest of Wyoming peer communities. This speaks to the relative competitive advantage other Wyoming communities have for talent attraction and retention.



TABLE 3.3: INCOME TO HOME VALUE RATIO 2023

LOCATION	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	HOME VALUE: INCOME*
Corvallis, Oregon	\$26,868	17.9
Pullman, Washington	\$33,935	11.8
Bozeman, Montana	\$79,903	7.7
Flagstaff, Arizona	\$68,041	7.4
Fort Collins, Colorado	\$81,883	7.2
Ellensburg, Washington	\$49,888	7.2
Missoula, Montana	\$65,329	6.5
Logan, Utah	\$56,764	6.0
Laramie, Wyoming	\$52,414	5.8
Moscow, Idaho	\$65,179	5.4
Cheyenne, Wyoming	\$77,884	4.0
Casper, Wyoming	\$69,171	3.6
Gillette, Wyoming	\$90,699	2.8

Source: Census ACS 2023 5-year

SUMMARY

The convergence of relatively high housing costs with limited housing stock that does not match current and future housing demand, drives outmigration, and limits resident retention and business development opportunities. Stakeholders have consistently cited the desire for smart growth driven by the needs of residents, particularly workforce housing for teachers, firefighters, and other full-time essential workers and professionals.

Laramie's constrained housing supply, low vacancy rate, rising costs, and limited housing diversity create challenges for residents across the lifespan, particularly older adults seeking to age in place, workers entering or remaining in the workforce, and households seeking attainable housing options near services.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Ensuring housing affordability/attainability and availability that matches current and projected future demand continues to be a goal for Laramie. This will support resident retention, employers who are hiring, and help generate new business opportunities in the community. This includes prioritizing areas for residential development, such as in or near downtown and surrounding the University to support the needs of students, as well as west of the University, and in West Laramie, areas which are ripe for improved connectivity, retail and dining options, and housing development.

The community has expressed support for compact and infill development, which can provide lower-cost housing for residents, and the need to invest in rehabilitating and improving existing housing stock. The City should focus on supporting policies and providing tools to help developers expand the types of housing units available in Laramie (including middle housing, homes on smaller lots, and more) and promoting the construction of new housing units in all price ranges.

The City of Laramie's role within housing development is to be a convener, in service of these key goals:

- **Facilitation:** Bringing housing groups to the table, to explore and capitalize on existing opportunities;
- **Removing Barriers:** Assessing and adjusting City policies that directly apply to development of housing through zoning amendments, permit process improvements, and more; and
- **Creating Opportunity:** Exploring options for redevelopment on city-owned properties, land transfers, and close partnerships to encourage adaptive re-use and creative solutions (such as converting unused school property to workforce housing).

GOAL 8 REMOVE BARRIERS AND CREATE INCENTIVES TO ENABLE HOUSING PRODUCTION

8.A SERVE AS A CONVENER/FACILITATOR

Support the overall housing ecosystem by facilitating a local housing organization or voluntary advisory board to advocate for and pursue sustained efforts for housing solutions. This could be led by an existing organization like the Albany County Housing and Land Trust. This organization should be a coalition of public, private, and nonprofit entities convened regularly to address housing issues and to explore barriers to remove and incentives to employ to this end. This effort could also partner with the Wyoming Housing Network, which provides guidance, tools, and resources to promote housing development.

8.B REGULATORY BARRIERS AND CONSTRAINTS

Evaluate building code, City Engineering Standards and Unified Development Code regulations to identify and remove barriers to the construction of new housing units (such as limits on permissible housing types and onerous design requirements) modifying requirements that impede development or add avoidable costs to residential development.



8.C PERMITTING

Developers have cited Laramie's administrative review and permitting process as barriers to new development and construction. The City of Laramie should work with development applicants to ensure that they have a clear understanding of application requirements and development-review procedures to avoid delays and additional unforeseen costs.

8.D INCENTIVES

High land and construction costs throughout the state make it challenging to produce housing at all price points. The City of Laramie can help alleviate these costs by allowing the construction of development types that facilitate housing development and increase housing stock at all affordability levels. This includes mixed-use developments, infill and adaptive re-use, senior and student housing, as well as affordable and market rate housing construction.

GOAL 9 SUPPORT DEVELOPERS INCREASING HOUSING SUPPLY AND DIVERSITY

9.A SENIOR HOUSING

As older adults choose to age in place and retire in Laramie, new senior- and retirement-living options are needed. This will ensure older adults have home options that are conducive to their needs, including smaller units that require less maintenance, ADUs or "granny-flats" to enable multi-generational living, and living near other seniors to enable strong social connections into old age. The City should review the Unified Development Code to identify additional areas that uses could be supported.

9.B ADUS, MODULAR, AND MANUFACTURED HOMES

Accessory dwelling units (ADUS), modular (prefabricated homes built in sections), and manufactured (built off site and installed on a foundation) homes are solutions that make housing more affordable, due to a smaller footprint and reduced need for specialized construction labor, lowering overall cost. The City should evaluate its code to ensure these housing types are readily available to those who want them, and standardize the design and review process to further lower time and costs related to building these homes. The City should review the Unified Development Code to identify additional areas where these uses could be supported.



9.C MULTIFAMILY HOUSING

Multi-family housing is a solution that meets the needs of many students, young professionals, seniors, and small families, as well as the desire for more density and walkability in targeted areas of the city. The City should review the Unified Development Code to identify additional areas where these uses could be supported.

9.D MARKET RATE HOUSING

Laramie desires larger developers to participate in the local housing market to help build homes at scale. Housing priced at market rate and above is needed to help free up lower-cost units for those living below area-median income, with a specific need for 600-800 higher-end rental units for those making 81 percent and above the city's area median income. The City should support development of housing at all price points, helping to provide a better return on investment for developers, by identifying

parcels suitable for development, working with developers on removing barriers to development, and providing incentives and other tools to encourage residential development.

9.E AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Support the production of affordable housing units for those making below 50 percent area median income by connecting developers with funding sources, removing regulatory barriers to affordable housing production, and exploring incentives or requirements to produce affordable units.

9.F AGING IN PLACE

Establish explicit goals and strategies to increase housing options that support aging in place, including smaller units, accessible units, housing near services, and development patterns that promote independence for older adults.

9.G SHARED AND MULTIGENERATIONAL HOUSING

Support shared housing and multigenerational living models, including homesharing arrangements, as part of the City's housing strategy, recognizing their role in affordability, caregiving support, social connection, and efficient use of existing housing stock.

GOAL 10 SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS TO CURRENT HOUSING ENVIRONMENT

10.A INCREASE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR RESIDENTS

Cost burdened households are vulnerable because spending a large portion of their income on housing leaves them with less money for other necessities like food, healthcare, and transportation. This lack of financial flexibility makes them susceptible to financial shocks such as job loss or medical bills, and can lead to material hardship, health problems, and housing instability, including overcrowding or eviction. The City of Laramie can support programs and efforts by partner organizations to alleviate financial burden for renters and home owners.

10.B HOME IMPROVEMENTS, REHABILITATION, AND MAINTENANCE

Support partner organizations who are deploying investment, initiatives, and programs to upgrade and maintain the quality of existing housing stock and improve housing conditions of rental properties. Connect residents in need of these services with organizations like Wyoming Senior Citizens Inc, Rocky Mountain Power/LIEAP Weatherization, My Front Door, Albany County Housing and Land Trust, Wyoming Department of Health, and more. The City can also support code and standards changes that will enable and encourage improvements for maintenance, particularly for rental properties, and explore establishing a maintenance code that discourages non-compliance and repeated violations. See also policy *22.I Home Repair and Maintenance for Aging in Place*.

10.C BLIGHT REMEDIATION

Remediate and revitalize areas that have seen disinvestment through the identification of parcels and properties that are vacant, in disrepair, or underutilized, and reclaim them for future development, especially for those that are publicly-owned. The City can also initiate and support projects and programs to improve neighborhood and corridor conditions, such as infrastructure repair, open and green space development, or removal of unsafe structures.

10.D ADAPTIVE RE-USE

Support the adaptive reuse of underutilized properties, particularly to support the development of workforce and affordable housing. The City can also create and promote financial tools and other resources to contribute to adaptive reuse and building conversions to support economic and residential development goals.

10.E PREVENTING DISPLACEMENT OF OLDER ADULTS

Address housing cost burdens faced by older adults—particularly fixed-income homeowners and renters—through targeted strategies that support housing stability, prevent displacement, and allow residents to safely remain in their homes and communities.



HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See the following Tier 1 actions:

- Update the Unified Development Code
- Secure Funding Sources to Support Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Existing Homes
- Develop and Provide Pre-Approved Site Plans for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Secure Funding Source for Infrastructure Needed to Support Economic and Housing Development
- Map Infill Sites for New Development and Promote via the City Website

HN.1: Identify and convene partners for an effective local housing organization/advisory board, for example, the Albany County Housing and Land Trust.

HN.2: Promote residential growth downtown through zoning and policy refinement and tools like the Laramie Main Street Low Interest Revolving Loan.

HN.3: Assess the current and future demand for housing for older adults aging in place, from nursing to assisted living, senior-communities, and high-end condos. Publish this information for use by developers and other implementation and funding partners.

HN.4: Establish and maintain relationships with builders and financial institutions to enable the development of affordable housing, such as through the creation of revolving funds, pre-construction loan funds, and other tools.

HN.5: Explore the viability of a HOME Investment Partnership Consortium with partners within and surrounding Laramie, including Albany County and nearby counties, to increase the amount of affordable housing available in Laramie.

HN.6: Evaluate the need for and feasibility of developing single-occupancy units, shelter beds, and transitional housing for vulnerable populations.

HN.7: Explore the creation of a financial resource program like first time homeownership, down payment, and closing cost assistance in partnership with local financial institutions.

HN.8: Promote the work of organizations providing educational and outreach materials to enhance access to existing income assistance and housing programs.

HN.9: Review the option of partnering with Albany County to establish a Homeownership Zone from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to reclaim vacant and blighted properties, increase homeownership, and promote economic revitalization.

HN.10: Coordinate with housing-focused organizations, social services institutions, Albany County Public Health, and other agencies to improve the quality and safety of rental units in alignment with community health efforts.



PLACEMAKING

LARAMIE TODAY

Placemaking is an approach to planning and urban design that focuses on creating lively, people-centered spaces that reflect the needs, culture, and identity of the community. At its core, placemaking is about turning everyday spaces into places that people care about—not just where people pass through, but where they want to gather, stay, and connect.

In Laramie, the places people value most are those that feel safe and authentic to community members, are comfortable and lively spaces that incorporate art and engaging environments, and those that offer a connection to nature. Areas like Downtown Laramie and Washington Park are appreciated for their walkability, neighborhood character, and ongoing programming that brings folks together. Just outside of the city, outdoor

areas like Pilot Hill and Vedauwoo serve as essential recreation areas for residents and visitors alike. In contrast, some areas of the city may feel less memorable due to their limited pedestrian amenities, shortage of areas to comfortably congregate, or lack of cohesive identity. These places present unique opportunities for reinvestment and reactivation—informed by community needs and preferences—to transform them into welcoming and valued parts of the city.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Participants in the Forge Laramie process showed support for the creation of safe, welcoming places for people of all ages. They also expressed the desire to see better connections between neighborhoods and more public and outdoor spaces throughout the community. Growing public arts and culture is also important to creative placemaking and building a sense of authentic community. The goals and policies included in this section are intended to create opportunities for thoughtful and creative placemaking throughout the city.



WHAT MAKES A PLACE GREAT?

Project for Public Spaces, a leader in the study and practice of placemaking, has identified four qualities that are common amongst most successful places.¹

ACCESSIBILITY

Successful places are highly accessible and are well-connected to other parts of the community.

COMFORTABILITY

Successful places include features that make the space feel comfortable and safe.

ACTIVITY

Successful places attract people to participate in active and passive ways.

SOCIABILITY

Successful places are defined by sociable and inclusive environments that people want to experience time and again.

Source: Project for Public Spaces, *A Placemaking Primer*, 2022.

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GOAL 11 CREATE MEMORABLE SPACES FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY

11.A INCLUSIVE DESIGN

Ensure public spaces incorporate universal design principles, ADA accessibility, diverse signage, and amenities that serve people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

11.B COMFORTABLE DESIGN

Design new, and retrofit existing, city-owned parks and public spaces to include features that support community members' comfort in using that space.

11.C CONNECTING PLACES

Improve multi-modal connections to parks, plazas, and public spaces to improve access for all users. Use signage and wayfinding tools to link unique places throughout the community. See also policies 13.A *Active Transportation* and 14.B *Sidewalk Infrastructure*.

11.D INTERGENERATIONAL PLACES

Support the development of shared spaces and programming for intergenerational activity.

11.E SUBSTANCE-FREE GATHERING PLACES

Promote the availability, visibility, and accessibility of substance-free spaces and activities as part of City-sponsored events and programming to ensure residents and visitors of all ages and preferences feel comfortable participating. See also policy 22.E *Youth Wellness*.

11.F INCORPORATE ART

Support the incorporation of art, through many forms, into new public and private developments.

GOAL 12 ENCOURAGE AND INCENTIVIZE PLACEMAKING AS PART OF DEVELOPMENT

12.A PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS

Create incentives (such as density bonuses or increased building height) to encourage the incorporation of public plazas, outdoor seating areas, public art, and pedestrian-oriented design features in private development projects.

12.B PLACEMAKING DESIGN GUIDELINES

Establish design guidelines or standards that prioritize human-scale design, active ground floors, ground floor transparency, and streetscape enhancements to encourage new development and redevelopment to contribute to creating engaging places. Balance these requirements to not overly burden developers of these spaces and places.

12.C ART IN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Proactively identify opportunities to incorporate art into capital improvement projects to enhance community identity. Consider partnerships with local art organizations to provide necessary funding for art installations.



[Add image of Gorgon Gallery]

PLACEMAKING IN LARAMIE

Laramie residents and visitors benefit from access to unique, meaningful places throughout the community.

DOWNTOWN CLINIC GARDEN

The Downtown Clinic was established in 1999 and serves as a primary and specialty healthcare provider to uninsured individuals experiencing poverty in Albany County. In furtherance of the clinic's mission to provide holistic healthcare, a community garden was established behind the clinic building and serves as a place for community members to gather, garden, and access fresh produce.

GORGON GALLERY

The Gorgon Gallery is a free, public gallery located inside the Laramie Plains Civic Center. The gallery opened in the spring of 2023 and serves as a space for underrepresented voices, fostering connection through visual storytelling.



12.E TACTICAL PLACEMAKING

Encourage interim uses—such as pop-up events, parklets, food trucks, and temporary art installations—through flexible permitting to activate underutilized spaces on public and private lands and test long-term placemaking concepts.

PLACEMAKING IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

P.1: Incorporate features such as shade, seating, and lighting in public spaces to encourage safe and comfortable use across all seasons.

P.2: Partner with local and regional organizations to promote alcohol-free events for community members of all ages.

P.3: Update city-owned, pedestrian-scale signage (such as interpretive signs and wayfinding signs) to improve legibility for visually-impaired users.

P.4: Create and support existing programs and enrichment activities designed to facilitate interactions between youth and older adults.

P.5: Allocate funding to incorporate art in high-visibility capital improvement projects, such as a new park or government facility.

P.6: Establish partnerships with local and regional artists and include these partners in conversations at the onset of designing new public facilities.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BEHIND BROADWAY SQUARE

In many communities, public-private partnerships are leveraged to create meaningful gathering places for residents and visitors. The Broadway Square in Fargo, North Dakota serves as an example of a successful public-private partnership. In 2019, the development firm Kilbourne Group began the process of transforming a surface parking lot in the heart of downtown Fargo into a mid-rise, mixed-use tower, parking garage, and public plaza to be programmed by the Fargo Parks District.

Redevelopment of the property was made possible in part through the provision of several economic development programs offered by the City. The first was a five-year property tax exemption offered through the state of North Dakota's Renaissance Zone program. A second property tax exemption program that allowed the developer to make an annual payment in lieu of paying taxes was also established, and required the developer to provide a \$1.2 million payment for 15 years following the end of the Renaissance Zone tax exemption. The annual \$1.2 million payment was then used to help pay off the \$15 million in bonds used by the City to finance the parking garage and public plaza.

Today the public plaza, called Broadway Square, serves as an essential community gathering place for year-round activities, including the farmers market, summer splash pads, and winter ice skating rinks.



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Keep moving, there's more to see!





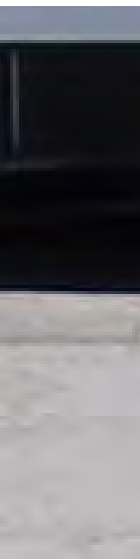
CHAPTER 4

CONNECT AND NURTURE





The City envisions a community where movement is safe, efficient, and accessible for everyone—whether walking, biking, rolling, or driving. By creating a connected, multimodal system that links people to the places they live, work, and play, the City supports not only mobility, but also healthier lifestyles, stronger mental well-being, and meaningful connections to nature.





TRANSPORTATION

LARAMIE TODAY

Planning for, constructing, and maintaining safe and effective transportation systems is an essential government function. At the federal level, the U.S. Department of Transportation sets national priorities, established regulations, and provides funding for programs that are then implemented through agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. State-level transpor-

tation departments, such as the Wyoming Department of Transportation, serve as the bridge between federal priorities and local transportation initiatives by overseeing the state's highway system and allocating state and federal funding to municipal transportation projects.

At the local level, cities establish policies and create long-range plans to guide investment in the transportation system in a way that aligns with community

priorities (such as safety, accessibility, and connectivity). Connecting transportation planning with land use planning positively affects community development by coordinating systems that support:

- Safe multimodal networks for all users, including pedestrians and cyclists;
- Enhanced street connectivity; and
- Access to public transit services.



While Laramie does not have a stand-alone master transportation plan, the City has undertaken a number of planning efforts to guide long-range transportation decisions. The Major Street Plan, which was included in the 2007 Comprehensive Plan, serves as the City's primary tool for guiding alignment of future collector and arterial roadways. Other supplemental plans, such as the Bill Nye Avenue Corridor Study and 3, 2, 1...3rd Street!, support corridor-specific improvements along key thoroughfares. More recently, the City partnered with the Albany County Transportation Authority to develop a 10-year Strategic Public Transportation Plan (adopted in 2026) that includes recommendations for new public transit services throughout the county. The City also completed the Reconnect West Laramie transportation plan in 2026, which identifies barriers and opportunities to improve connectivity between West Laramie and the rest of the community. Additional documents that support planning for the city's transportation network include:

- Laramie Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- 2014 Speed Study
- Harney Street Corridor Study
- Pavement Management and Sidewalk Report
- City Capital Improvement Plan

In addition, the City is currently working on updating the local transportation model that can assist with future transportation policy and investment decision-making.

URBAN SYSTEMS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Every year, the state of Wyoming allocates funding for street improvements (excluding state highway projects) to cities with a population of 5,000 or more through the Urban Systems program.

The Laramie Urban Systems Advisory Committee (USAC) was established in 2020 under a cooperative agreement between the City of Laramie, Albany County, the University of Wyoming, and the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WDOT) to ensure the City and County can access funding provided through WYDOT's Urban Systems program. The purpose of the Committee is to evaluate the transportation needs of the urban area; compile and prioritize a list of potential improvement projects constrained by available federal and local matching funds; and submit that list to the appropriate governing bodies for approval. The USAC plays a key role in maintaining the Major Street Plan, which is essential to the City's ability to receive Urban Systems program funding.

Laramie currently benefits from a robust transportation system that serves a variety of community needs. The City has invested millions in road improvements, pedestrian crosswalks and warning signals, bike facilities, and accessibility enhancements to improve traffic flow and safety for drivers and pedestrians. Limited transit services are provided by the University of Wyoming, but are open to the public, with three routes that connect various parts of the city. Additional on-demand and paratransit services are available to older residents, courtesy of the Eppson Center.

Planes and trains are also used to move goods and people to and through Laramie. The Laramie Regional Airport offers passenger flights to Denver, as well as fixed-base services for private flights. Recent federal funding changes could be a challenge to the long-term viability of the airport. The City can help address this concern by working in partnership with the Laramie Regional Airport Joint Powers Board to support additional revenue generation options.

Laramie was originally built around the presence of the Union Pacific railroad, which previously provided both freight and passenger rail service. Today, freight trains continue to move goods through downtown Laramie as they make their way between the west coast/pacific northwest and the Midwest. Passenger rail service in Laramie ended in 1997 with the discontinuation of Amtrak's Pioneer route. However, there is a renewed interest in bringing passenger rail service back to the region through Colorado's front range passenger rail project, which is anticipated to include an extension into Wyoming (specifically to Cheyenne). Additional conversations between regional partners are needed to determine what impact, if any, future passenger rail service could have in Laramie.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Looking ahead, Laramie knows there are opportunities to prepare for positive changes to the city's transportation network and has actively developed a tool to guide improvements to roads and sidewalks in the city. Participants in the Forge Laramie process noted that ongoing maintenance of city streets (and sidewalks) was a major concern, especially as the city grows and new roads are constructed. Participants also cited a desire to support investments in street and sidewalk connections that improve safety and accessibility throughout the community. The goals and policies in this section are intended to guide investments in street and multimodal infrastructure in a way that supports the broader community goals of safety, accessibility, and connectivity.

GOAL 13 MAINTAIN A SAFE AND CONNECTED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THAT ACCOMMODATES ALL MODES AND USERS

13.A ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Support opportunities for active transportation—such as biking, rolling, or walking between destinations—as an alternative to personal vehicle travel through private investments that improve gaps in street and sidewalk connectivity and provide traffic calming measures.

13.B COMPLETE STREETS

Plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain a transportation network that safely and comfortably accommodates all users.

13.C CITYWIDE CONNECTIVITY

Improve multimodal transportation connections throughout the city with a focus on enhancing mobility, safety, equity, and economic vitality for all users.

13.D PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

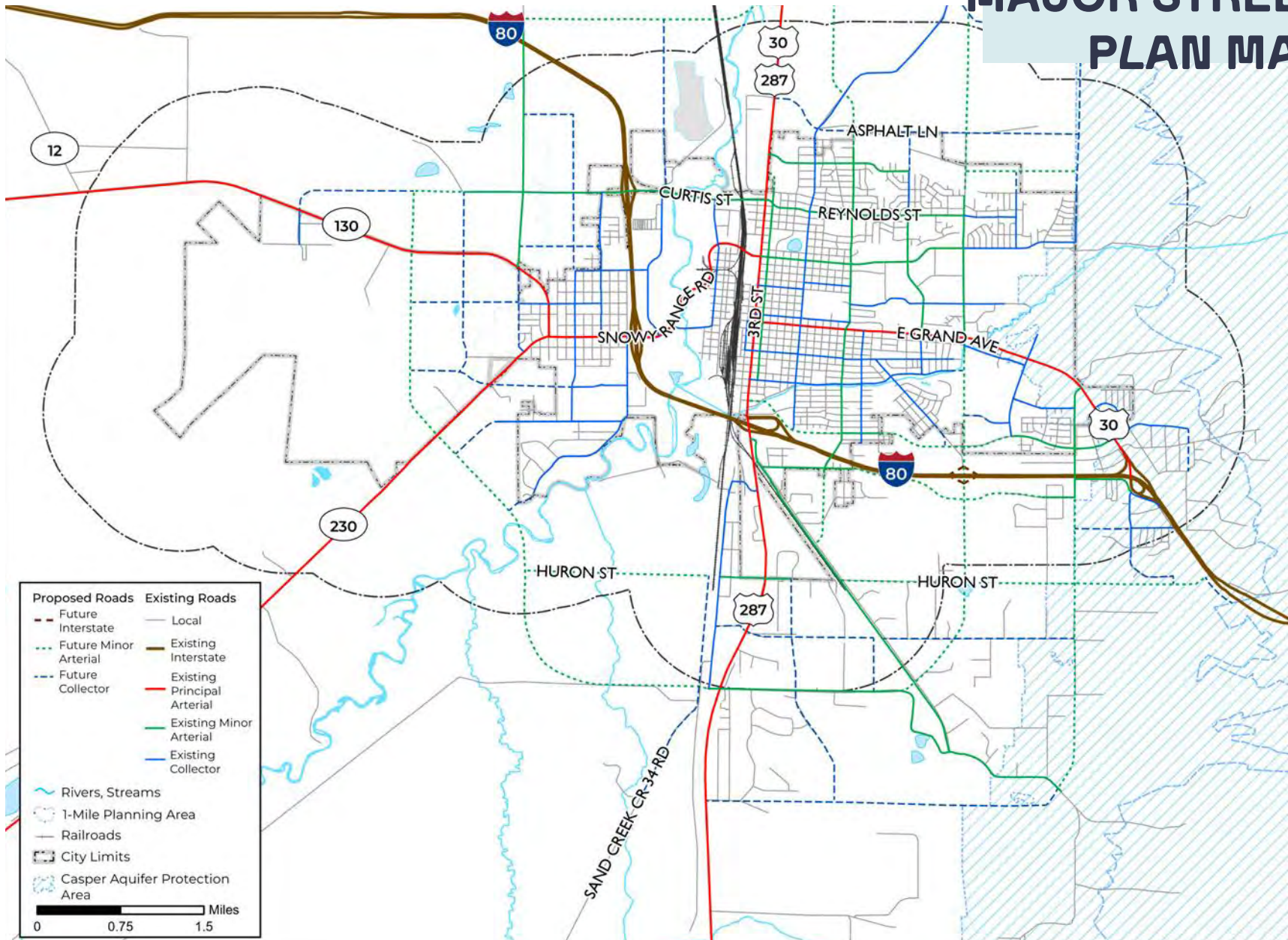
Enhance transit service, optimize transit connectivity, and advance equitable and sustainable access to transit through partnerships with local transit providers, such as Albany County and the University of Wyoming. Consider the need for event and on-demand transit to support tourism growth when planning for public transit.

13.E AIR TRAVEL

Continue to support the retention and expansion of reliable air transportation services at the Laramie Regional Airport as an economic and quality-of-life benefit to the community. Work with the Joint Powers Board to support expansion of revenue generating land uses on the airport property.



MAJOR STREET PLAN MAP



CITY OF LARAMIE

GOAL 14 COORDINATE LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION PLANNING DECISIONS TO PROMOTE EFFICIENT TRAVEL PATTERNS AND HIGH-QUALITY COMMUNITY DESIGN

14.A TRANSIT-SUPPORTIVE DEVELOPMENT

Encourage higher-density development, including a mix of residential and non-residential uses, along or near streets designated for existing and future transit service to increase opportunities for residents, workers, and visitors to ride transit.

14.B SIDEWALK INFRASTRUCTURE

Continue to support targeted improvements to the City's sidewalk network, particularly as they relate to improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

14.C RIGHT-OF-WAY DEDICATION

Regularly review City regulations to ensure that right-of-way standards are sufficient to meet community needs while still providing opportunities for innovative street design.

14.D DOWNTOWN PARKING MANAGEMENT

As guided by Laramie Downtown Development Plan, manage the use of existing on- and off-street parking spaces in downtown Laramie during peak periods. Balance the need to build or require new vehicle parking with other community priorities, such as community character and walkability. Continue to supplement vehicle parking needs through the expansion of bicycle parking options.

GOAL 15 PLAN AND PREPARE FOR LONG-TERM CHANGES TO THE CITY'S TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

15.A TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

Dedicate resources to assessing the potential benefits and impacts of implementing new transportation technologies, such as dockless e-bikes and e-scooters, autonomous vehicles, and drone delivery services.

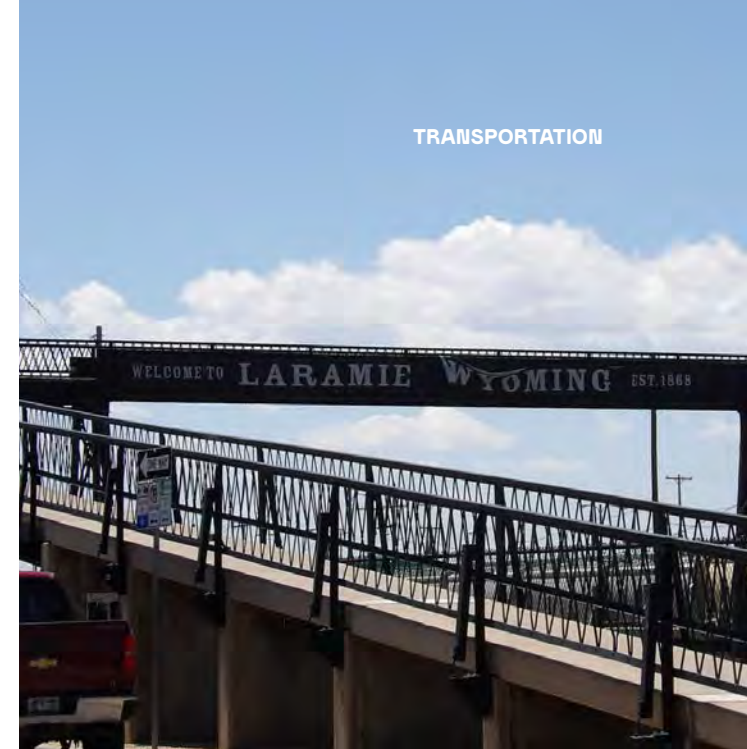
15.B ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Promote the expansion of infrastructure, such as vehicle charging stations, needed to support the use of private electric vehicles and expand the use of electric vehicles within the City's fleet.

15.C COMMUTER RAIL

Continue to partner with the City of Cheyenne and other regional partners to advocate for the expansion of commuter rail services to Wyoming as part of the Colorado's future Front Range Passenger Rail line.

TRANSPORTATION





TRANSPORTATION IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Tier 1 actions to:

- Create an Educational Campaign on Safe Use of public Rights-of-Way for All Modes of Travel
- Secure Process and Funding to Fill Gaps in and Maintain the City's Multi-Use Paths

T.1: Continue to work with Albany County to implement the 10-Year Strategic Transportation Plan.

T.2: Improve east-west connectivity by implementing the strategies outlined in the Reconnect West Laramie transportation plan.

T.3: Explore potential revenue sources to secure committed funding for ongoing street improvement and maintenance. Dedicate staff time to research and apply for grant funding to support high-priority transportation network improvements.

T.4: Perform a condition inventory of bike lanes and trails to assess condition and maintenance requirements, and allocate funding to repair areas back to city standards, especially in areas with high pedestrian traffic.

T.5: Conduct an audit to identify intersections that would be good candidates for testing low-cost safety improvements (e.g., high-visibility crosswalks, improved signage, removing visual obstructions, signal timing adjustments, and other solutions) and install said improvements.

T.6: Where warranted through Engineering design, construct crosswalk improvements such as stripping, pedestrian countdown timers, and audible traffic signals, prioritizing improvements in high-traffic areas and areas of known conflict between vehicles and pedestrian.

T.7: Adopt a Vision Zero policy to prevent traffic fatalities and severe injuries, and promote safe and equitable mobility. Continue utilizing less costly tactical urbanism improvements, such as installation of bollards and painting pedestrian/bike facilities, to support these efforts.

T.8: Adopt a complete streets policy that speaks to the City's role in planning, designing, and building streets that enable safe access and movement for all users.

T.9: Periodically hold pedestrian safety symposiums to include City staff, emergency service providers, elected officials, residents, and others interested in pedestrian safety.

T.10: Work with the Laramie Regional Airport Joint Powers Board to implement the 2025 Airport Master Plan. Work with the Board to identify any needed changes to Development Code to support airport economic development efforts.

T.11: Create a plan for installing accessibility improvements to the City's sidewalk network, which may be funded through Special Purpose Tax (i.e., "6th Penny") dollars.

T.12: Coordinate with WYDOT, Albany County, and private property owners in conducting a traffic engineering and design study along major thoroughfares to identify necessary and feasible improvements such as acceleration/deceleration lanes, turn lanes at major intersections, right-of-way property acquisition, and the effective use of medians.

T.13: Where practicable, coordinate major street improvements with the timing of development projects and consider contributing additional city funding for landscaping and other improvements that will improve the aesthetic of major streets.

T.14: Implement the Laramie Downtown Development Plan goal and associated actions to improve parking access, availability, and curbside management strategies.

T.15: Evaluate the need to regulate the use of e-bikes and e-scooters on City streets, multi-use paths, and other bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

T.16: Identify high traffic areas within the city for the installation of EV charging stations.

T.17: Allocate staff time to researching and recommending regulatory changes that support the implementation of new community-supported transportation technologies.



PARKS AND RECREATION

LARAMIE TODAY

Parks and Recreation is an integral component of why residents love the City of Laramie. Parks and Recreation in the community not only encompass the variety of opportunities provided by the City, but also those near and adjacent to Laramie. Many of these amenities are maintained by State and Federal partners such as State Parks, the University of Wyoming, and the National Forest Service. Together, the resources provided by internal and external agencies make Laramie the beloved place to live, work, and play that it is today.

The City of Laramie Parks and Recreation Department administers 29 identified facilities in the City; including 14 designated parks, the City trail system, the Recreation Center, the Ice and Event Center, the cemetery, and mosquito/integrated pest management. The staff of approximately 20 employees ensures the recreation and open

space needs of the community are met. Through the robust park system the department provides space for soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, playgrounds, skateboarding, trails, dog parks, and many more recreational opportunities. Additionally, the department administers popular services and programs in the community such as aquatics, youth recreation, adult recreation, public art, and special events.

The Parks and Recreation Department is guided by the 2016 City of Laramie Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan outlines 25 service areas in the community and overviews access to recreation amenities in each service area. It then makes recommendations for each service area to act as implementation steps to the Master Plan. This plan will be updated in future years. Actions and admin-

istration of the department are funded through the City general fund and specific purpose taxes.

The University of Wyoming augments the offerings from the Parks and Recreation Department by providing recreation opportunities for students and guests. Similar to the City of Laramie, the University provides programming and services to promote community health and wellness. The crown jewel of the University's recreation network is Half-Acre Recreation and Wellness Center, which provides a variety of basketball courts, fitness studios, and nearly 20,000 square feet of cardio/weight equipment. Half-Acre is supplemented by UW Aquatic Facilities, the campus recreation fields, and many other smaller facilities. Although these facilities are not directly accessible to the public, they serve a significant portion of the community and mitigate stress to other community facilities.

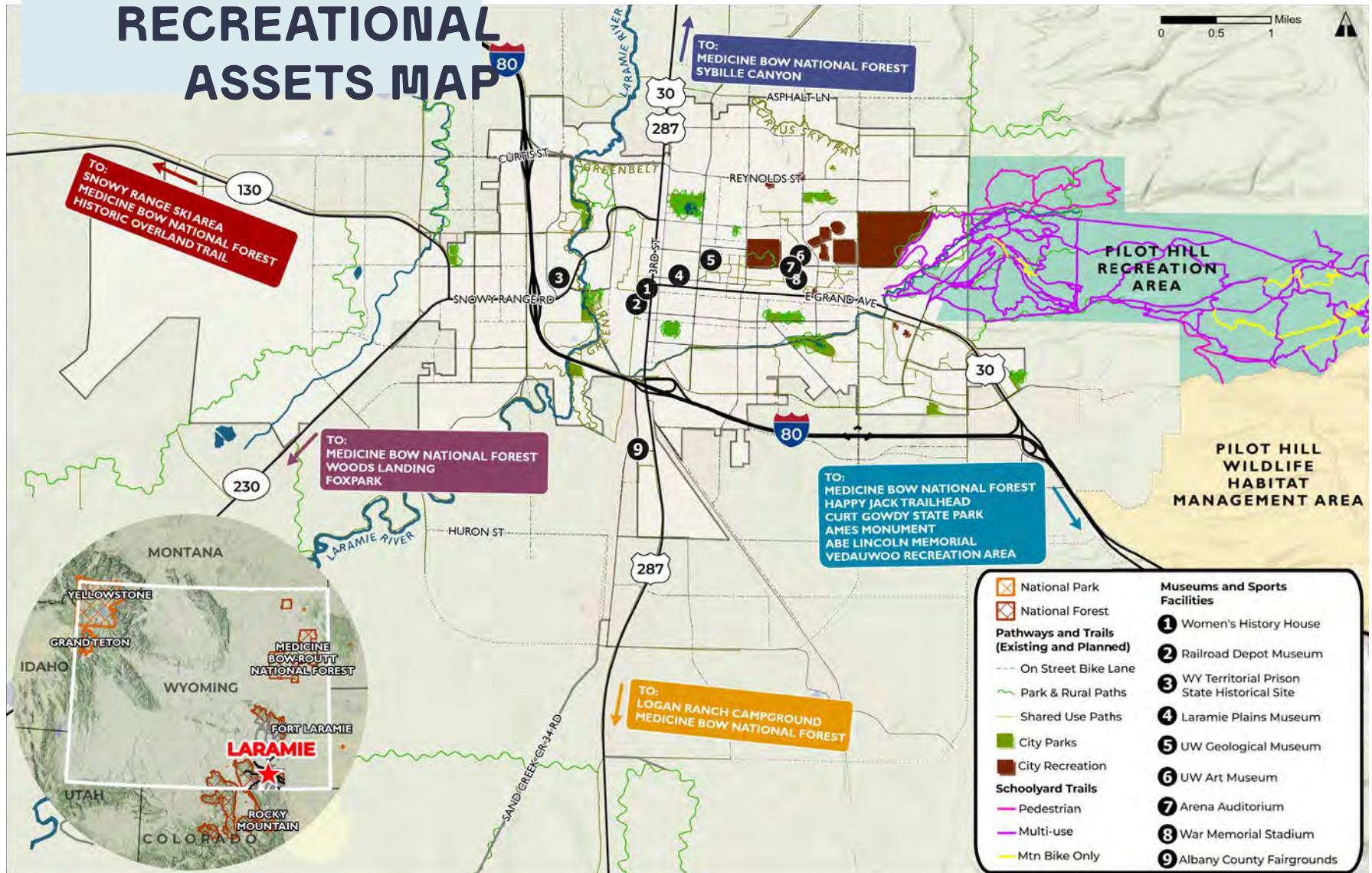


Additionally the University administers Jacoby Golf Course, the only golf course in the community.

Many of the amenities that define Laramie's recreation identity are not actually inside city limits; they are proximate regional assets like Tie City/Happy Jack, Pilot Hill, Vedauwoo, the Snowy Range, Medicine Bow National Forest, Curt Gowdy, and Snowy Range Ski Area. The State and Federal resources within and near Laramie complete the Parks and Recreation picture of the community. The State operates the Wyoming Territorial Prison and nearby Curt Gowdy State Park. These amenities provide mountain biking, wildlife viewing, water sports, and historic resources for residents and visitors of Laramie. The National Forest Service also provides similar recreation opportunities along with a myriad of winter sports. with the Medicine Bow National Forest and its many trailheads, including Tie City. The Forest Service also administers the Vedauwoo Recreation Area, providing world class climbing opportunities. Even though many of these amenities are outside the City's jurisdiction, they are central to Laramie's identity, and Forge Laramie seeks to help residents and visitors access these resources more safely, easily, and intentionally.



LOCAL & REGIONAL RECREATIONAL ASSETS MAP





PILOT HILL

Pilot Hill is a large community conservation and recreation area east of Laramie that serves as a connection between the city and the Pole Mountain-Happy Jack area. The site, which includes roughly nine square miles of land, was acquired by Albany County from the Warren Livestock Company in 2020 through a land swap.

Today, Pilot Hill benefits Laramie residents and visitors by:

PROTECTING LAND LOCATED ABOVE THE CASPER AQUIFER, WHICH IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER FOR THE COMMUNITY;

PROVIDING ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION, INCLUDING HIKING, RUNNING, MOUNTAIN BIKING, AND HORSEBACK RIDING TRAILS; AND

CONSERVING LARGE SWATHS OF SHORTGRASS PRAIRIE THROUGH THE WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT AREA.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

The City of Laramie is well on its way to being a recreation destination in Wyoming. The internal park amenities and proximity to large-scale recreation destinations provide an abundance of opportunities to capitalize on the outdoor sector of the economy. Laramie has already taken strides to realize this potential, notably with the Pilot Hill Project that connects the City of Laramie to 55,000 Acres of Forest Service land for hiking and mountain biking. Laramie can continue to grow its position regionally regarding outdoor recreation, further diversifying and expanding the local economy. However, the community will need to balance the advantages that come with being a regional recreation destination with the needs of current residents. Laramie seeks to implement a balanced approach that ensures regional recreation grows sustainably. Working with local partners, such as Bikenet, Laramie Audubon, and others is critical to achieving recreational goals.

Internally, Laramie has several opportunities to connect neighborhood parks to each other and City-wide attractions through on- and off-street trails with the potential for the Laramie Loop. This includes identifying missing segments for connections, determining if on- or off-street facilities are appropriate, and solidifying funding sources for potential improvements. Identifying this network will provide a basis for selecting future sites for new parks and recreational resources. The effort will be improved by coordinating future investments and shared uses with the University of Wyoming. Furthermore, the City will need to determine future use and programming of the Monolith and Hart Ranches, both purchased for water rights but

contain extensive recreation opportunities. This focus area of the comprehensive plan is anticipated to be supplemented by a larger update to the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

GOAL 16 CATER RECREATION TO CURRENT AND FUTURE RESIDENTS

16.A REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

Regional amenities, such as Tie City, Happy Jack, Pilot Hill, Vedauwoo, Snowy Range, and Curt Gowdy, strongly shape how people experience Laramie and why they choose to live in the community. Continue to make connections to the regional system of trails and recreation opportunities. Explore opportunities for public transportation to regional amenities such as Vedauwoo, Pilot Hill and Snowy Range Ski Area. Further explore how neighborhood connections and safer bike and pedestrian networks can enhance access to regional amenities.

16.B BALANCED APPROACH

Balance Laramie's regional appeal with local needs. The access and availability of recreation opportunities in the vicinity of the city was a major factor cited during the community engagement on why residents loved the community. Maintaining this access and controlling overcrowding will serve the interests of local constituents. Ensure the local population is considered before marketing to regional and national audiences. Use targeted recreational marketing to bolster economic development opportunities.

16.C ALL SEASONS RECREATION

Implement solutions for all seasons recreation. Promote a diverse range of facilities that can be used year-round. Recognize that nearby amenities, such as Snowy Range Ski Area, Tie City, and Happy Jack, cater to winter recreation and plan for these uses accordingly.

16.D RANCH OPPORTUNITIES

Plan for future recreation opportunities at the Monolith and Hart Ranch, while preserving the water rights of the property. Emphasize passive uses that require minimal funding due to proximity and budgetary constraints. See also policy *25.A Municipal Ranch Access*.

16.E LARAMIE RIVER

Enhance recreational opportunities along the Laramie River and support development of local recreation businesses (such as guides and specialty businesses) to support these activities. Identify further opportunities for fishing, trails, and wetland preservation. Explore opportunities for land transfers between partner organizations and private property owners for river preservation.

GOAL 17 COORDINATE WITH KEY PARTNERS TO PROVIDE EXCEPTIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

17.A SHARED FACILITIES

Seek opportunities to share recreation and park facilities with the University of Wyoming and Albany County School District. Clearly outline roles and responsibilities to minimize conflict. Outline opportunities for shared funding to provide amenities in a responsible manner. Determine which partners may rent equipment for the variety of recreation opportunities in the vicinity and coordinate so all recreation opportunities are addressed.

17.B CONNECTED FACILITIES

Explore on- and off-street facilities to connect park and recreation resources. Ensure partner organizations, such as the school district, the University of Wyoming, the Forest Service, and State Parks are engaged to create a complete network.



GOAL 18 EXPAND AND MAINTAIN OUR EXISTING RESOURCES

18.A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Expand on the current trail system in the community. Seek to implement the Laramie Loop and Green-belt system to provide a connected trail throughout the community. Connecting the internal system to regional amenities through trail construction, enhanced safety, and wayfinding will augment the proximity of regional assets.

18.B MASTER PLAN AND SERVICE AREAS

Continue to monitor the service area approach contained in the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Draft targeted updates with a focus on implementation to ensure the Master Plan maintains its relevance. Consider consolidating service areas for broad implementation success.

18.C PARK FEES (DEVELOPMENT)

Identify uses for Park Fees in development applications. Focus on service areas within the vicinity of the proposed development.

18.D MULTIPLE USES AND USERS

Allow multiple users and uses in recreation facilities. Determine whether new parks can accommodate a variety of uses or if uses should be grouped in different locations throughout the city.

18.E SUSTAINABLE REVENUE SOURCES FOR PARK FUNDING

Secure funding sources through sustainable budgeting practices. Park maintenance and expansion requires significant funding. Although

user fees can supplement budgetary constraints, the City will explore additional opportunities, such as specific purpose taxes, to augment Parks and Recreation Facilities.

GOAL 19 PROGRAM FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

19.A RECREATION FOR ALL AGES

Program recreation for all ages in the community at the Recreation Center, Ice and Events Center, and local parks. Seek opportunities to expand offerings through arts, learning, and events. Provide opportunities for different age groups to recreate and explore nearby natural resources.

19.B PARKS AND FACILITIES TO SUPPORT ALL USERS

Ensure parks and recreational facilities contain equipment and resources that accommodate all ages. Plan to revisit facilities in service areas at specific time horizons to deliver up-to-date and modern facilities for all users. See also *Goal 11 Create Memorable Spaces for Everyone to Enjoy*.

19.C ENHANCED PROGRAMING

Explore future programing opportunities. This may include, but is not limited to arts, crafts, humanities, or cooking classes at recreational facilities.



PARKS AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Teir 1 actions to:

- Develop New and Update Existing Master Plans (Parks and Recreation Master Plan)
- Create a Shared Use Agreement for Parks and Recreation Facilities with Albany County Schools

PR.1: Evaluate use and capacity of regional recreation amenities. This will inform uses that may be able to be marketed and those that are close to capacity.

PR.2: Determine which regional amenities may be enhanced with scheduled connections to the City of Laramie. This may include van pooling or buses to regional destinations for residents.

PR.3: Identify connections from neighborhoods that can enhance access to regional and nearby amenities. Use enhanced signage and wayfinding to accomplish this objective.

PR.4: Coordinate marketing of recreation opportunities (such as through the creation of pamphlets, web resources, and social media posts that catalogue recreation options) between local and regional partners.

PR.5: Evaluate potential programmatic updates based on facility capability and community interests.

PR.6: Promote rentals for recreation opportunities. This may include mountain bike, ski, cross country ski, snowshoe, or climbing rentals. Coordinate rentals and classes across recreation providers, including the University of Wyoming.

PR.7: Continue to maintain and expand access to existing greenbelt trails and shared use paths as outlined in the Reconnect West Laramie Plan.



PUBLIC HEALTH

LARAMIE TODAY

A thriving and successful community can be measured by the well-being of its community members. When health investments are made in a community, they strengthen overall resilience and empower individuals to contribute their best to the social, civic, and economic fabric of the place they call home.

The purpose of public health is to protect and improve the health of all people and their communities, with a focus on overall community health and well-being. Public health intersects with comprehensive planning by influencing the social determinants of health, which are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, play, live, worship, and age—all circumstances that impact health. The social determinants of health are frequently divided into five categories: economic stability, education

access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and the built environment, and social and community context.

Research has shown that these influence health outcomes more than individual genetic health factors or medical care alone. A community's health is a reflection of the access, safety, and quality of life for community members. Examples include being able to afford and access safe housing and healthy food options; financial security and economic security, including having adequate transportation for jobs and receiving adequate income; opportunities for good education and workforce training; and the ability to incorporate healthy activities into daily lifestyles, such as walkable neighborhoods and recreation opportunities.

The Wyoming Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an ongoing statewide telephone survey of adults. The survey's purpose is to gather information about health behaviors and factors that influence chronic disease, illness, injury, disability, and premature death. The information is summarized at the county level in Wyoming and can provide some insights into the overall health of those living in Albany County. For more information on the data and methods for the Wyoming BRFSS, please see the [Wyoming Department of Health website](#).

According to the Wyoming Department of Health, the adult community members of Albany County experience the following health outcomes in their daily lives:

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle—including regular physical activity and good nutrition—provides benefits such as reducing blood pressure and improving sleep. Importantly, it also lowers the risk of serious illnesses like heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and some cancers. Staying active can also help people live longer, have a better quality of life, and maintain independence as they age.

Most adults in Albany County (69 percent) report that they are not living a healthy lifestyle. In this case, a healthy lifestyle was defined as not smoking, having leisure time outside of work for physical activity, and being at a healthy weight. This has increased slightly from the 2015-2019 survey time period in which about 63 percent of adults reported not living a healthy lifestyle. This is lower when compared to Wyoming overall, where the percentage of adults reporting that they are not living a healthy lifestyle is 81 percent.

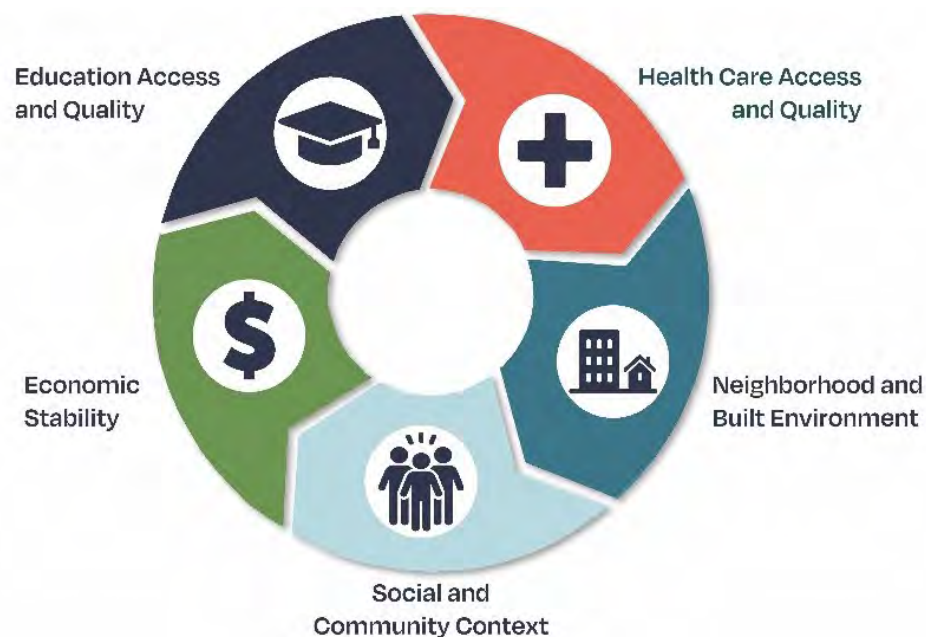
Around 14 percent of Albany County adults report not participating in any physical activities or exercise in the past month. This is lower than statewide, where 26 percent of adults report not participating in any physical activities.

Approximately 87 percent of adults report inadequate fruit and vegetables consumption.

MENTAL HEALTH

In Albany County, 24 percent of adults report being told by a healthcare provider that they have a depressive disorder (which includes a diagnosis of depression, major depression, dysthymia, or minor depression). This is slightly higher than the statewide percentage of adults (21 percent).

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Access to healthcare is defined as the ability to have necessary medical services, which includes having a personal doctor, healthcare coverage, and being able to afford seeing a doctor if needed.

Approximately 30 percent of adults report not having a personal doctor or healthcare provider. This has slightly improved from the 2015-2019 survey time period when 36 percent of adults reported that they did not have a doctor or healthcare provider. This is higher than the Wyoming average of 24 percent.

About 39 percent of adults report issues with accessing healthcare. This is higher than the Wyoming average of 33 percent.

Approximately 13 percent reported that they could not see a doctor due to cost (at least once in the past 12 months). The percentage of adults who couldn't afford to see a doctor has slightly increased since the 2015-2019 aggregate dataset (9 percent) and this is currently on par with the rest of the state (12 percent).



WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Public health is advanced by improving the social determinants of health across a community. Health is interwoven and connects to many other components of Forge Laramie: economic stability and income, addressed under Work and Prosper; geographic access to healthcare and ability to incorporate physical activity into daily activity through neighborhoods in Live and Belong; mental and physical health and safety impacted by environmental factors, hazards, and disasters covered in Steward and Conserve; and the support of sufficient infrastructure and technology resources to improve health outcomes in Serve and Collaborate. By prioritizing public health across all of these dimensions, Forge Laramie can foster a resilient and healthy community for many years to come.

GOAL 20 CONSIDER HEALTH IN CITY OF LARAMIE DECISION-MAKING TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

20.A HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS FOR LAND USE REGULATIONS

Integrate public health considerations into City of Laramie regulatory processes, such as development review and permitting. Maintain coordination between land use decisions and environmental health standards. Review and update the Unified Development Code to address regulatory barriers to health-related uses and identify new opportunities to improve community health.

- Health-related uses to support can include healthcare facilities such as clinics, behavioral health offices, mobile health units, and urgent care facilities; facilities that care for older adults, such as independent living, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing facilities and nursing homes, residential care homes, and other types across the continuum of care; childcare operations; businesses that support physical activity and wellness; and uses that support local food system access.
- Opportunities to improve community health can include reducing pollution and improving air quality; ensuring consistent access to nutritious, fresh, and affordable food; improve access to healthcare; and reducing proximity to tobacco and vaping retailers (especially for youth, such as around schools and playgrounds).
- Code updates to improve the social determinants can be coordinated with other Goals, Policies, and Actions of Forge Laramie, particularly for the Parks and Recreation, Natural Resources, Hazard Resiliency, Transportation, and Housing sections.

20.B HEALTH IN CITY PROCESSES

Evaluate established City of Laramie processes to identify ways to incorporate health. An example could include the annually updated Capital Investment Plan and budget processes, in which City Council sets annual goals to guide its work. Continue coordination between Community and Economic Development and Environmental Health on new development projects as appropriate.

20.C PUBLIC INVESTMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Coordinate the planning, funding, and construction of infrastructure improvements to provide co-benefits for public health, hazard resiliency, and other important dimensions of Forge Laramie. Align Laramie's efforts to address economic stability, resiliency, and emergency preparedness, with investments in healthcare access, active transportation, utilities, facilities, and social infrastructure.

GOAL 21 SERVE AS FACILITATOR OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CONVENER OF PUBLIC HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS

21.A HEALTH STAKEHOLDERS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

When conducting community engagement, coordinate efforts with public health stakeholders, such as the Albany County Department of Family Services, Albany County Public Health, Intermountain Health, and other health-focused community organizations and agencies.

21.B ALBANY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATION

Collaborate with Albany County Public Health's existing programs and initiatives to improve public health. Identify ways to incorporate Albany County's health priorities in Laramie's decision-making processes (in coordination with *13.B Alignment of Health Priorities with Established City of Laramie Processes*).

21.C COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Leveraging existing community resources and initiatives, such as the health campaigns by Albany County Public Health, into existing Laramie community communications and social media. Advance existing efforts to support maternal and child services, clinical services for communicable diseases and immunizations, community prevention, and emergency preparedness.

21.D CONNECTIONS TO RESOURCES

Foster partnerships with service providers, nonprofit organizations, and healthcare systems to expand access to in-home services, community-based care, and social support networks that reduce isolation and improve quality of life. Encourage the integration of age-friendly design principles into public spaces, facilities, and capital improvements to create inclusive environments for residents of all ages and abilities.

GOAL 22 TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN IMPROVING COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND REMOVING BARRIERS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

22.A HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Improve access to healthcare services for Laramie community members for primary care, specialty care, and other priority health needs. Bolster access through collaborating with regional providers, reducing barriers for the establishment of healthcare facilities, and exploring creative solutions to address healthcare gaps, such as rotating services, mobile clinics, co-location of medical facilities with other community resources, and bolstering reliable internet access for telehealth services. Identify ways to improve transportation connections to healthcare resources.

22.B ACTIVE LIFESTYLES

Promote lifelong physical activity, safety, and overall well-being for Laramie community members of all ages and abilities by creating safe, accessible, and connected opportunities for parks, recreation, and active transportation. See also policy *13.A Active Transportation*.

22.C MENTAL HEALTH

Support accessible and comprehensive mental health and substance use services through community-based facilities, telehealth opportunities, and other options to support mental health needs. Partner with Albany County Public Health to expand Laramie community members' access to preventive and behavioral health services.

22.D ACCESS TO NATURE

Protect, enhance, and expand access to natural resources, including parks, trails, and open spaces, which support physical health, mental well-being, and social connection for all community members of all ages and abilities.

22.E YOUTH WELLNESS

Promote the health and well-being of youth by fostering safe, supportive, and enriching environments that enable all young people to thrive physically, mentally, and socially. Encourage access to quality education, nutritious food, healthcare, and recreational opportunities within neighborhoods and community facilities. Support the development of safe routes to schools, parks, and community destinations through well-designed pedestrian, bicycle, and transit networks. In coordination with Placemaking efforts, encourage the creation of safe, substance-free spaces and activities for youth, and support community design and programming that reduces exposure to violence, environmental hazards, and other risk factors. See also policy *11.E Substance-Free Gathering Places*.



22.F AGING IN PLACE

Support the comfort and ability of community members to age in place by promoting housing, neighborhood design, and community services that enable older adults to live safely, independently, and with dignity in their homes and communities. Encourage a diverse mix of housing types—including smaller homes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), and accessible units—that meet the changing needs of an aging population.

22.G COMPLETE NEIGHBORHOODS

Align land use, transportation, and public health efforts to ensure that neighborhoods are walkable, well-connected, and provide convenient access to essential services such as healthcare, grocery stores, parks, and social opportunities. Support transportation options that accommodate reduced mobility, including transit, paratransit, and safe pedestrian infrastructure.

22.H AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Support efforts to improve air quality by reducing emissions from transportation, industry, and construction. Promote development patterns that reduce vehicle emissions from commuting. Encourage strategies such as expanded tree canopy, multimodal transportation options, and energy-efficient buildings to reduce pollution and protect public health. Ensure that air quality considerations are integrated into planning, infrastructure, and development decisions to benefit all residents.

22.I HOME REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FOR AGING IN PLACE

Partner with local senior organizations, housing nonprofits, and contractors to develop and implement a program that assists older adults with home modifications and ongoing maintenance. The program may include home assessments, financial assistance or grants for accessibility improvements (e.g., ramps, grab bars, bathroom retrofits), and support for routine maintenance tasks that enable seniors to remain safely in their homes. See also policy *10.B Home Improvements, Rehabilitation, and Maintenance*.



PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Teir 1 actions to:

- Develop New and Update Existing Master Plans
- Create a Share Use Agreement for Parks and Recreation Facilities with Albany County Schools

PH.1: Establish a protocol for Environmental Health participation in development review.

PH.2: Conduct a regular meeting between Laramie leadership and Albany County Public Health to identify ways that Laramie can best support their community efforts, and vice versa.

PH.3: Create partnerships with organizations like the Eppson Center to achieve the healthy community vision, such as promoting age-inclusive spaces and reducing isolation in older population.

PH.4: Work with the Wyoming Business Council to implement the workplace resources for Laramie businesses from the Work Well Wyoming initiative from the Wyoming Department of Health. See also Workforce and the Local Economy.

PH.5: Consider proximity to sensitive receptors, such as hospitals and other health care facilities, schools, day cares, and other immobile populations, when reviewing new facilities and businesses handling hazardous waste.

PH.6: Conduct a health needs assessment for Laramie and connect to existing plans and processes, such as parks and recreation improvements.

PH.7: Identify grant funding opportunities to establish rotating services or mobile clinics to address health needs.

PH.8: Identify potential locations for a community Social/Health Services Center to be developed in the future.

PH.9: Work with the Albany County Public Health, with support from other County and State agencies, to gather community support and to obtain grants for a detox facility, which could delay the need for a new jail facility.

PH.10: Increase public awareness among property owners about how they can support accessibility on their adjacent sidewalks and driveways. Work with the LACD, Board of Health and other interagency partners to improve physical access for differently abled people of all ages.

PH.11: With Albany County Mental Health (Interagency) Board, explore and develop community integrative programs to address mental health needs.

PH.12: Conduct a community mental health awareness campaign by sharing available services through regional providers and Albany County Public Health.

PH.13: Host an annual health fair that brings mobile unit preventive and primary care health services to the Laramie community, either as a standalone event or in conjunction with other community-wide events.

PH.14: Create a partnership or establish a citizen science initiative with an organization like Purple Air to utilize low-cost air sensors to monitor air quality in Laramie facilities, parks, schools, and other key community locations. Create a publicly available map or dashboard with the air quality monitoring results to allow tracking over time.

PH.15: Support partnerships and investments that expand reliable, affordable high-speed internet access for community members, particularly in areas with limited service or barriers to digital access, to improve connections for telehealth, health information, social services, education, employment, and emergency communications.

PH.16: Expand substance-free and family-friendly placemaking activities, events, and gathering spaces that support local economic vitality while providing healthy, inclusive opportunities for recreation, social connection, arts, culture, and community life. See also Placemaking.



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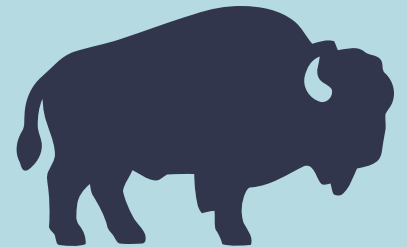
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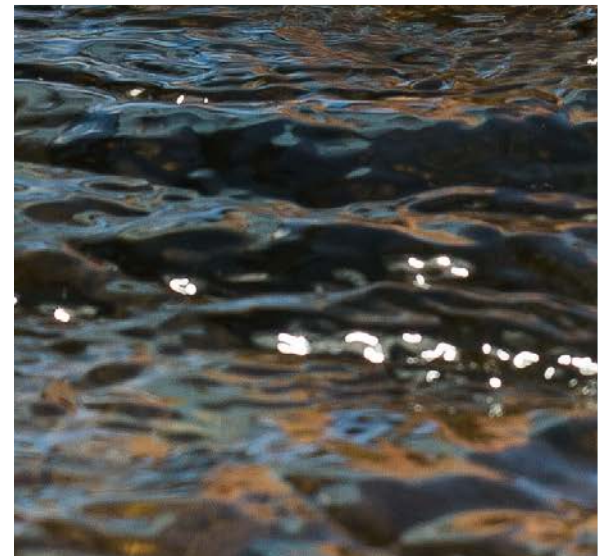
CHAPTER 5

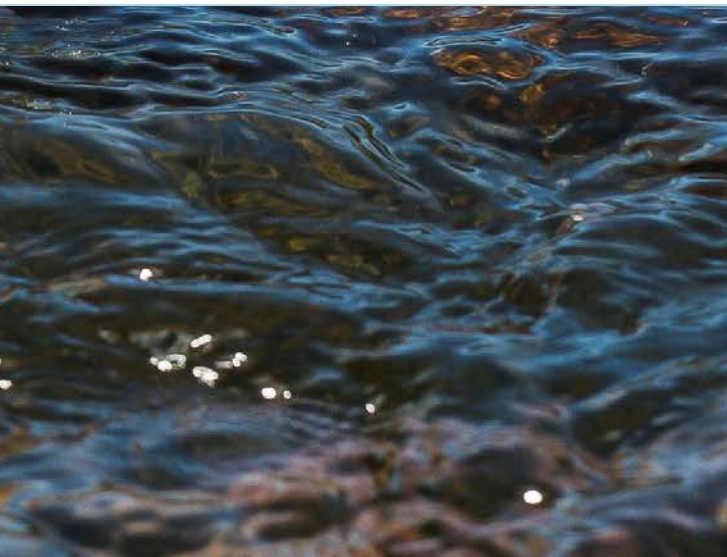
STEWARD AND CONSERVE





The City embraces its role as a dedicated steward of the natural environment, fostering a balance between the natural resources and ecologies that sustain the community and supporting necessary growth and development. By strengthening resilience to hazards and adapting thoughtfully to a changing climate, the City is building a future that is both enduring and responsive to evolving conditions.





NATURAL RESOURCES

LARAMIE TODAY

Laramie takes pride in being an outdoor town where people have access to a variety of recreation opportunities. Within the city, walkers, hikers, and bikers can enjoy the Greenbelt Trails along the Laramie River and excellent mountain biking trails in the protected Casper Aquifer / Pilot Hill area. Just outside the city, Vedauwoo and the Snowy Range offer residents and visitors alike the chance to fish, ski, camp, and wander amidst unparalleled mountain views. The health and continued viability of these areas and the ecological benefits they provide depend on the community's careful and intentional stewardship.

MUNICIPAL RANCHES

Following the City's acquisition of two historic ranches – Monolith Ranch in 1981 and Hart or Bath Ranch in 2022 – for water rights, there are additional opportunities to allow public access to part of these lands for active or passive recreation. The Casper Aquifer Protection Plan is the current plan that guides land use and protection efforts for the aquifer. The creation of new plans for the municipal ranch properties, specifically outlining how the City could provide public access to the properties while protecting the water resources, would be the next step in clarifying the future of Laramie's next great outdoor areas.



CASPER AQUIFER

The Casper Aquifer, located on the eastern edge of Laramie, is the primary source of drinking water for city and county residents. For more than 20 years, the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan (CAPP), has provided guidance for balancing local development pressures with preservation of the aquifer. The City implements the recommendations of the CAPP in part through the application of the Aquifer Protection Overlay district, which includes additional land use, wastewater, and setback requirements.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

According to information provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Laramie also "encompasses areas which provide habitat to a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic species, including numerous Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)," including pronghorn, migratory birds, bats, swift fox, plus reptiles, native fish, and amphibians. Pronghorns' crucial winter range habitat borders eastern Laramie, and "numerous undeveloped, open prairie areas within city limits provide habitat for terrestrial wildlife. Spring Creek and the Laramie River provide habitat for both terrestrial and aquatic species, serve as movement corridors through Laramie for wildlife and fish, and provide fishing and other recreation opportunities for the public."

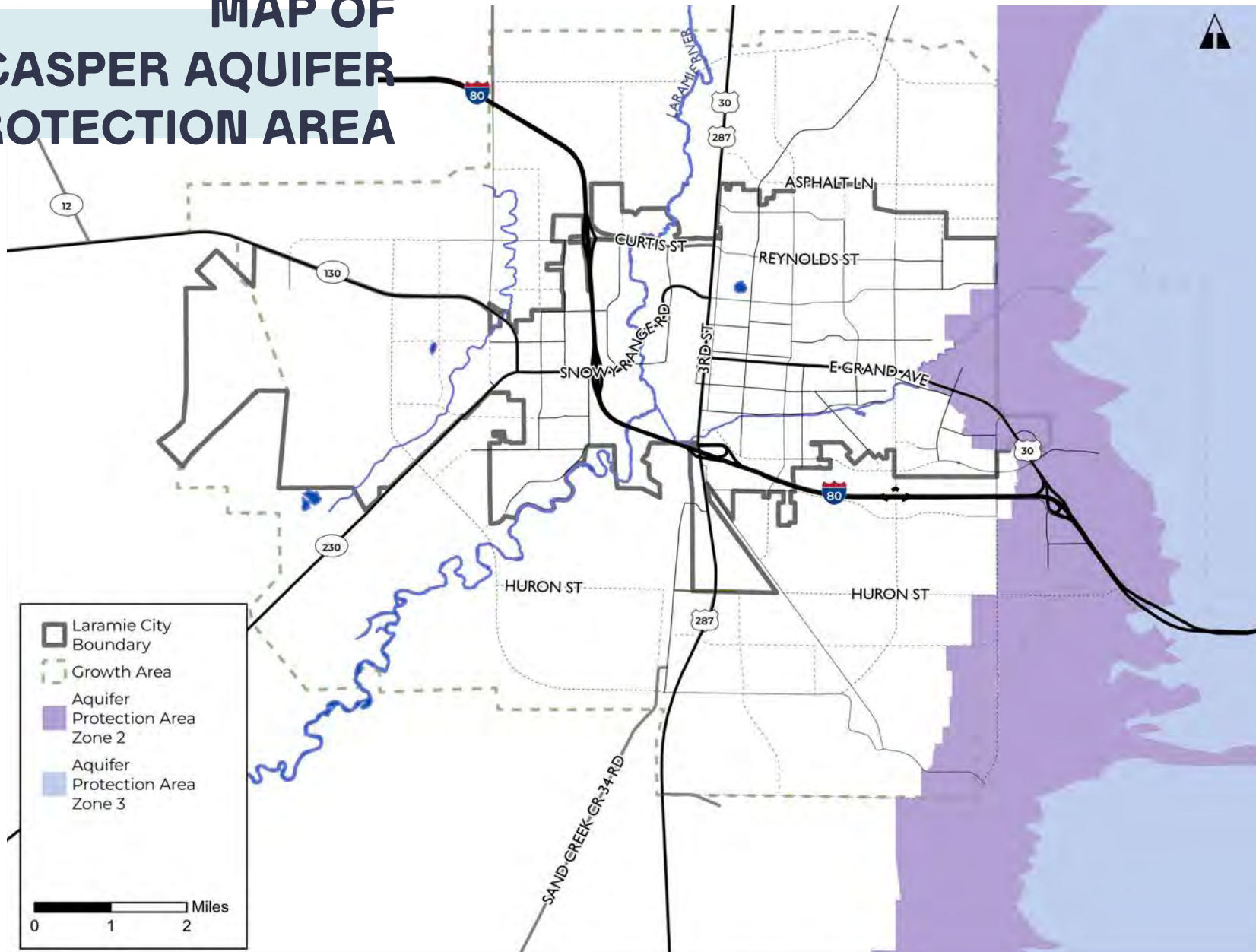


WATERWAYS

The Laramie River is an important community asset that contributes to the city's scenic landscape while providing recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Maintaining the health of the river is essential to supporting Laramie's high quality of life. The river is negatively affected by sedimentation from bank erosion and stormwater runoff related to construction activity. There have also been reports of creosote contamination from runoff at the BNSF facility treating rail ties, and cyanobacteria contamination, which produces harmful blue-green algae. While the condition of the Laramie River is often impacted by activities well outside city limits, there are opportunities to partner with local and state organizations to help safeguard and improve water

quality in Laramie and beyond. Both the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) and the Laramie Rivers Conservation District could prove important partners as the City works to ensure the health of the river and the biomes it supports. Additionally, Spring Creek supports wild fish and a variety of other wildlife, and provides recreation and educational opportunities to the citizens of Laramie. It is located entirely within the City of Laramie and feeds into the Laramie River. Safeguarding water quality and sediment loads in Spring Creek can improve conditions in the Laramie River.

MAP OF CASPER AQUIFER PROTECTION AREA





WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Open space is an important component of Laramie's natural resources, and community members regularly expressed a desire to preserve and maintain its key natural assets throughout the Forge Laramie process. Participants often cited the need to balance new development opportunities with the desire to preserve and protect Laramie's waterways, dark skies, and natural areas. As discussed throughout this plan, one of the best ways to preserve the community's natural resources and rural character is to plan for compact, infill development as an alternative to outward, sprawl-based development.



PARTNERING TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES

The City's ability to achieve its goals related to environmental quality, conservation, preservation, and protection rely, in part, on successful collaboration with regional and state partners.

STATE AGENCIES

State agencies (such as the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and Wyoming Game and Fish) can play a critical role in the development review process by examining and providing feedback on development proposals.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The City benefits from the expertise offered by the joint city-county Environmental Advisory Committee, whose purpose is to analyze environmental issues and offer advice and recommendations to the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Partnerships with local environmental and non-profit organizations (such as the local Sierra Club chapter and the Laramie Rivers Conservation District) are critical for expanding knowledge and understanding of Laramie's natural resources.

GOAL 23 PROVIDE THOUGHTFUL AND INTENTIONAL STEWARDSHIP TO LARAMIE'S KEY NATURAL ASSETS

23.A SENSITIVE LANDS

Utilize mapped floodplains, wetlands, and the guidance of the Master Drainage Plan to protect sensitive lands (such as those prone to subsidence, flooding, or erosion) within the community, and apply existing standards and regulations to protect these lands in the event of development to ensure they are developed safely. If conditions of sensitive lands evolve, evaluate the need to update standards and regulations.

23.B DARK SKIES

Consider the impact of outdoor lighting on nighttime dark skies when reviewing development proposals. Consult Dark Skies International's five principles for responsible outdoor lighting in comparison to current UDC regulations to see where improvements could be made.

23.C WATERWAY PROTECTION

Protect water quality in Laramie's waterways and wetlands through regulatory tools that address construction and stormwater drainage in and around riparian areas.

23.D NATIVE PLANTS

Promote the planting of native and drought-tolerant plant species in tandem with the preservation of mature and healthy plantings as part of development and redevelopment. Concurrently, eliminate invasive or non-native plants when and where possible.

23.E CRITICAL HABITAT

Balance habitat preservation with development by minimizing and mitigating impacts to critical habitat and wildlife corridors. Provide regulations to ensure that public and private development projects are planned, designed, and maintained to protect ecological function while supporting responsible growth.

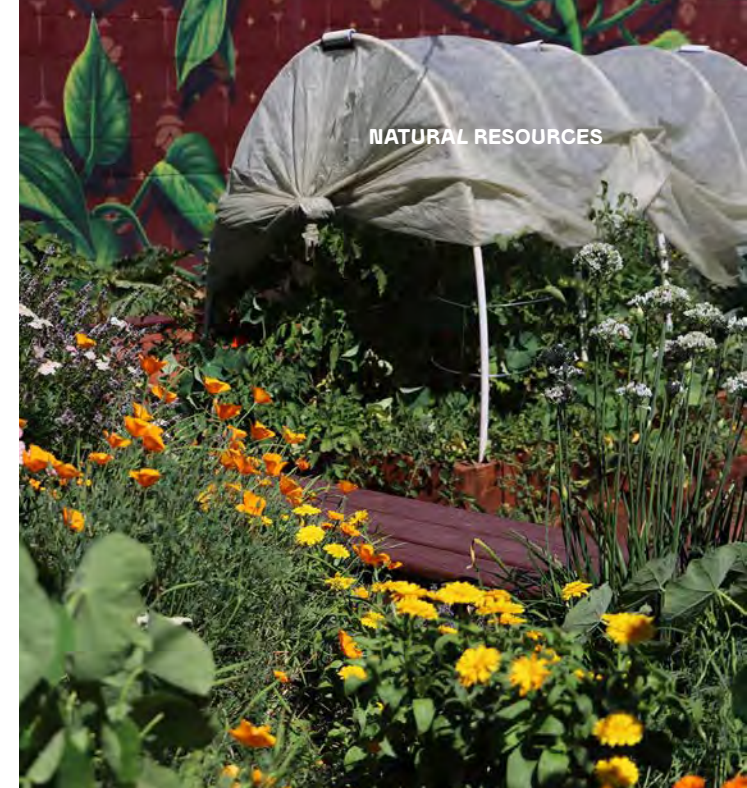
23.F WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Work with Wyoming Game and Fish and other partners to identify and preserve critical wildlife transit corridors on land and along Laramie's waterways.

GOAL 24 LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT A THRIVING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

24.A COLLABORATE WITH GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Continue collaboration with Wyoming Game and Fish Department, considering new ways of working together on shared goals and objectives. Consider creating a process where all City departments include the Habitat Protection Program department staff as reviewers and commenters on certain development and infrastructure proposals that may impact sensitive lands.



24.B CITY-COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Continue to support and staff the Environmental Committee, and monitor the issues they address along with their recommended solutions.

24.C OTHER AGENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS

Identify other partners working on responsible access and stewardship, and determine ways to implement positive partnerships and information sharing. The University of Wyoming has both active environmental groups, and academic programs where students engage directly to remediate environmental issues such as streambank erosion and replanting.



GOAL 25 CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE PUBLIC OPEN LANDS AND NATURAL AREAS

25.A MUNICIPAL RANCH ACCESS

Establish a plan for municipal ranch properties, informed by community input, that outlines a path to providing public access to recreational open spaces while continuing to protect the water resources of the ranches from contamination.

25.B CASPER AQUIFER PROTECTION

Periodically review the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan and Overlay to ensure they are accomplishing their objectives. Update as necessary to respond to changes in circumstance or conditions.

25.C WATERWAY ACCESS AND USE

Continue to improve public access to Spring Creek and the Laramie River. Expand education and promotion of existing assets, such as greenbelt trails and shared use paths. Explore opportunities to expand or add community fisheries, such as dredging LaBonte Lake to support fish populations.

25.D AGRICULTURE, NATURAL AREAS, AND PARKS DESIGNATIONS IN GROWTH AREAS PLAN

Where possible, maintain areas that are designated as Agriculture or Natural Areas/Parks in the Laramie Growth Area Plan as undeveloped open space to ensure the rural atmosphere of this area can be preserved. Maintaining undeveloped land within these areas will help to keep the small town, independent feel while simultaneously discouraging sprawl.

25.E MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING OPEN SPACE

Plan for long-term maintenance of publicly accessible public lands, so their health and viability is preserved over the long-term, providing enjoyment to current and future residents of the community.

GOAL 26 ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

26.A RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Ensure that the emphasis on expanding tourism in Laramie does not compromise the health or enjoyment of existing natural areas due to crowding or overuse. Devise strategies to protect areas that may be at risk of decline owing to increased tourism.

26.B ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Assess the potential of economic development to diminish or compromise the quality or quantity of key natural assets in Laramie.



NATURAL RESOURCES IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Tier 1 actions to:

- Develop New and Update Existing Master Plans (Master Plans for Ranches)
- Map Conservation Priorities in Laramie and Albany County
- Provide Educational materials on the Benefits of Native and Xeric Landscapes

NR.1: Explore opportunities to provide “out of the box” planting designs for xeric gardeners that are pre-approved for compliance with the Unified Development Code.

NR.2: Review and update regulations related to development in and near the Casper Aquifer and Laramie River floodplain to ensure they align with recent studies and adequately protect the health and viability of these areas.

NR.3: Identify potential partners and establish relationships to support natural resource protection.

NR.4: Continue to implement the recommendations of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan.

NR.5: Establish long-term maintenance plans for open space that detail what actions need to be taken for maintenance, who is responsible for accomplishing those actions, and how the maintenance is to be funded.

NR.6: Monitor use of existing natural assets and encroachment impacts from nearby development to determine if increased access is compromising the long-term health or viability of the assets.



HAZARD RESILIENCY

LARAMIE TODAY

The City worked with Albany and Carbon Counties and other local municipal partners in the development of the 2025 Hazard Mitigation Plan for Albany & Carbon Counties (Wyoming Region 3), participating in work sessions, a risk assessment workshop, and a mitigation assessment workshop. The resulting Plan considers that the following hazards exist for Albany County, and assigns the level of risk shown in the Table below for Laramie:

TABLE 5.1: LARAMIE HAZARD RISK

HAZARD	RISK LEVEL
Avalanche	N/A
Drought	High
Earthquake	Low
Flood / Dam, Dike or Levee Incident	Moderate
Geologic Hazards (landslide, land or mine subsidence, expansive soil)	High
Severe Thunderstorm (lightning, hail)	Moderate
Tornado / Wind / Windblown Deposits	High
Wildfire	Moderate
Winter Storm	High

Source: 2025 Wyoming Region 3 Hazard Mitigation Plan

While the plan acknowledges several high-risk hazards, actual federally-declared disaster events affecting Laramie have been few. Aside from COVID-19, the most recent federal disaster in Albany County was a severe storm declaration in July 2015. The most recent fire management assistance declaration was in 2020. By contrast, drought is the exception, having been a near-constant condition, with USDA declarations in 2012, 2013, and 2018, then every year starting in 2018 up through 2024 (USDA declarations primarily support farmers and ranchers who have lost production due to drought conditions. These declarations typically do not have widespread direct impact for most citizens not engaged in agricultural activities). Laramie has generally been fortunate in avoiding recent, large-scale disasters, but evolving climate and intensifying storms, heat, and drought mean the risk for such events is likely to increase over time.

The 2025 Plan focuses on mitigation actions, which it explains as “the use of long- and short-term strategies to reduce or alleviate the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster. It involves methods such as planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other actions that can mitigate the impacts of hazards.” The City has mitigation activities in progress since the 2020 version of the plan, including public education campaigns and stormwater runoff mitigation efforts. These areas are also emphasized in the updated plan, along with flood hazard mitigation efforts, updates to outdoor warning sirens, hazard mapping efforts, and plans for water storage.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

Albany County Emergency Management is the primary entity that plans for, coordinates, offers training, and supports incident response to help our County prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) is a group of trained volunteers whose members help with community service, emergency planning, and support during emergencies.

Wyoming Homeland Security helps to administer the federal National Flood Insurance Program, and also supports local jurisdictions in their response to emergency incidents. The state office also administers grants, and provides training and education materials.

Mutual Aid Agreements are used to establish the terms for sharing resources, personnel, and equipment during emergencies. The City has mutual aid agreements in place with Albany for fire protection services and the University of Wyoming for policy and fire services.



WHERE WE ARE HEADING

The City of Laramie plays a supporting role in emergency management, with Albany County taking the lead in this area of operations. In this capacity, the role of the City is to:

- **Participate:** The City will continue to participate in sessions aimed at emergency response planning, implementing mitigation actions, monitoring the evolution of hazard risks, and conducting tabletop, functional, or full-scale disaster response exercises.
- **Respond:** Every disaster response begins locally, with first responders being the first on the scene. If a response extends past the first hours or days, City staff and leadership would likely also play a role in staffing an emergency operations center.
- **Collaborate:** Share information and physical and human resources as available in the event of a longer duration event.

GOAL 27 MITIGATE THE RISK AND EFFECTS OF NATURAL OR HUMAN-CAUSED HAZARDS ON LIFE, PROPERTY, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

27.A PUBLIC EDUCATION

Continue efforts to make citizens aware of disaster risks, and encourage proactive public preparedness. Education efforts should also extend to City elected officials and decision-makers, not only to increase their general awareness, but also so they can consider the funds and funding sources needed to accomplish mitigation actions.

27.B UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE REVIEW

Ensure that the Unified Development Code and City engineering standards support mitigation efforts. This can include limitations on development in hazard zones (such as floodplains, or adjacent to wildland urban interface (WUI) areas), measures to limit sedimentation and erosion, water conservation, and low impact development measures to reduce stormwater runoff.

27.C FLOOD HAZARD / FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Review floodplain management regulations, last updated in 2018, to determine if they are in need of revision to continue adequately managing the risk to property or structures that have been or may be established in the floodplain. Consider how green infrastructure stormwater designs can support reduction of flood hazards.



27.D WATER CONSERVATION

Consider implementation of measures aimed at water conservation to mitigate excessive water use during drought conditions.

27.E EROSION CONTROL

Pursue erosion and dust control measures. Arid land – especially if not covered in plantings – is subject to increased erosion, and thus contributes to additional sedimentation in waterways and a decline in air quality.

27.F EMERGENCY WARNING SIRENS

Install additional outdoor warning sirens in populated, tornado-prone areas. Albany County Emergency Management Agency (ACEMA) will lead the procurement aspect of this effort, with the expectation that the City will collaborate with the vendor to install, test, and maintain the sirens.

27.G FLOOD HAZARD PROTECTION

Discourage new development within known flood hazard areas. Ensure free flow of watercourses by removing debris buildup or structures that impede waterflow, as both can worsen the severity of flooding. Identify and fund mitigation projects that can be implemented to reduce the impacts of floods in residential areas that are prone to flooding.

27.H GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

Increase awareness of and discourage development in areas with documented geologic hazards, such as subsidence or expansive soils, and also in the proximity of abandoned mines.

27.I EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Strengthen regulations designed to mitigate the impacts of severe weather events, such as requiring snow storage plans and/or shade installation as part of new developments.

27.J WILDFIRE MITIGATION

Educate the community about mitigation measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of fire damage to private property. Encourage the use of defensible space, resilient building materials, and other fire adaptive strategies. Expand knowledge of wildland urban interface (WUI) and mitigation measures specific to such areas.

27.K WATER STORAGE

Identify water source for and storage location for the additional water storage Laramie needs during droughts and for firefighting operations during wildfires.

GOAL 28 FOSTER COOPERATION ON HAZARD MANAGEMENT ISSUES

28.A REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION

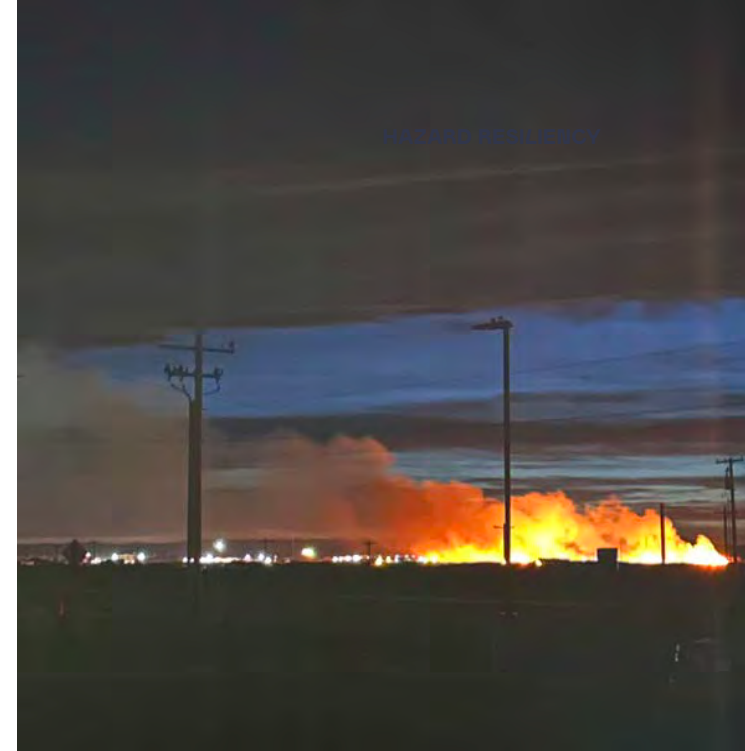
Continue to collaborate with Albany County and other regional partners to implement the recommendations of the Wyoming Region 3 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

28.B EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Maintain clear channels of communication for communicating with residents, business owners, and visitors during emergency situations.

28.C EMERGENCY SERVICE OPERATIONS

Ensure that emergency service responders have the necessary staff, facilities, equipment, training, and resources required to provide the city with the highest possible level of public safety services. Continue to seek opportunities for efficiency through regional collaboration on training, service provision, and other special initiatives.



GOAL 29 MONITOR CLIMATE-RELATED EVOLUTION OF HAZARD RISKS

29.A CONSIDER EVOLVING HAZARD RISKS

Monitor evolving risk profile, and consider mitigation and response strategies to changes in disaster risk. As the climate continues changing, the hazard risks to which the City may be exposed could also change.

29.B PROLONGED HEAT EVENT

Considering the City's resources and capacity to respond to such an event. While not listed as an existing risk, heat events are becoming more common nationwide, and areas with increasing aridification are at increasing risk.



HAZARD RESILIENCY IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Tier 1 action to Develop New and Update Existing Master Plans

HR.1: Continue public education efforts related to the most likely hazards that could impact Laramie. Education should emphasize awareness and preparedness for residents of the community.

HR.2: Regularly review City standards for dust control on bare ground and construction sites to ensure they align with or exceed existing Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality requirements. This relies on groundcover plantings to reduce erosion and airborne dust particles.

HR.3: Work with the Albany County Emergency Management Department on the installation, testing, and maintenance of warning sirens.

HR.4: Where federal, state, or county funds are not available to accomplish mitigation actions, identify potential funding sources to enable continuing implementation of city-specific mitigation actions.

HR.5: Maintain regular contact with emergency response partners outside of emergency response events.

HR.6: Participate in tabletop and functional exercises as the opportunity arises to support hazard response preparedness.

HR.7: Ensure communication channels and equipment are functional and available for use in the event of a larger-scale incident.

HR.8: Monitor staffing and training of emergency responders. Identify evolving needs for staffing, training, and equipment, and determine the source for funds to meet these needs.



CHAPTER 6

SERVE AND COLLABORATE





To support growth and prosperity, Laramie will continue to provide fiscally-efficient public services, facilities, and infrastructure, as well as transparent governance. These efforts will focus on directing resources to strategic investment areas that will support housing development, business expansion and development, as well as meet the health and safety needs of the community.





PUBLIC SERVICES

LARAMIE TODAY

Laramie is governed under a Council-Manager System. The City Manager acts as the executive of the municipal government but serves under the direction of the City Council who, in turn, serve at the will of the citizens of Laramie. The City is divided into three wards with three city council members from each ward who serve overlapping four-year terms. The mayor and vice mayor are then selected from this group by City Council with two-year terms. The City Council acts on behalf of the residents who elected them to set goals, adopt the budget, and dictate the general direction of the public services that are provided in the community. This direction is conveyed to the City Manager who is responsible for implementing the will of the people.

The City Manager carries out these duties through the variety of departments in the City administration. The City administration is divided into ten departments. These are Administrative Services, the City Attorney's office, the City Clerk's office, Community and Economic Development, Fire, Human Resources, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Public Works. The majority of these services

are located at the 400 block between Grand and Vinson Avenues in City Hall, the Historic Carnegie Library, and the Police Station. In addition to the primary services downtown, the City also operates the Laramie Municipal Operations North Campus at 4374 North 3rd Street. This facility opened in 2022 and houses public works and solid waste. The breadth of services the City provides falls under the umbrella of the ten departments and ensures the needs of the public are met. This ranges from the mission of preserving life and property from the Fire and Police Departments to fostering building and growth from the Community and Economic Development Department. The services provided in the City are funded through a variety of different revenue streams. These include local user charges, local sales and use taxes, state shared sales and use taxes, and state and federally sourced grants and loans. For additional information on City finances, see also *Fiscal Health*.



In addition to the essential services provided by the City there are also a variety of volunteer boards and commissions that influence how the local government functions. The City maintains 16 boards and commissions that provide communication between City Council, the City's administration, and the community. These boards and commissions provide an excellent way for citizens to be informed and positively impact City of Laramie services.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

The provision of public services is changing across the country. Advances in technology and the advent of artificial intelligence have required municipalities to provide services in an increasingly rapid manner. At the same time, the City's budget is limited by decreases in property taxes and the failure of revenue sources to keep up with inflation, posing funding uncertainties that the community must address. The convergence of these two forces yields that Laramie needs to continue with its efficient, consistent, and expedient delivery of public services. Laramie will forge towards serving the community through a variety of mediums, collaborating across departments for efficient results, and using technology to expedite solutions.

GOAL 30 COORDINATE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW PROCESSES ACROSS DEPARTMENTS

30.A ONE-STOP SHOP

Acknowledge the potential that citizens may visit City offices without knowing which department they need to work with. Respond by ensuring each department involved can confidently and consistently redirect citizens to the correct point of contact. The City will strive to coordinate internally to solve community needs.

30.B CONSISTENT MESSAGING

Maintain consistent messaging across departments to ensure applicants and the general public receive clear and reliable guidance throughout the development review process. This will require ongoing coordination between the Planning, Code Administration, Engineering, and other City divisions involved in the development review process.

30.C COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Enhance development review by consolidating department reviews on one plan set. Use tools such as blue beam for mark-ups and include all comments on one-review letter.

30.D EXPEDITED PERMITTING

Work to reduce permitting times for planning, building, and engineering applications. Consider providing review schedules and anticipated meeting schedules at pre-application meetings or at the time of application submittal.

GOAL 31 USE TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPLEMENT THE PROVISION OF SERVICES

31.A SOCIAL MEDIA ALERTS

Engage the public with a variety of social media platforms to disseminate information. This includes not only emergency alert notifications, but posts on pertinent public meetings, board and commission openings, and information to keep the community involved.

31.B AUTOMATE SERVICES WHERE NECESSARY

Incorporate tools to automate services to supplement the provision of in-person services. This includes the use of online forms to pose concerns, the use of AI to help residents find solutions faster, and the posting of information through online databases such as interactive maps.

31.C ONLINE PERMITTING SYSTEMS

Continue to use and improve City of Laramie Civic Access for all licenses, permits, and plans. The platform has made application processes more convenient for the general population. Laramie will monitor the system and make improvements as needed.

PUBLIC SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Tier 1 actions to:

- Create a New Development Services Advocate Position
- Prepare "Roadmaps" for Prospective Businesses to Assist with Land Development Process
- Improve City Customer Service Call System

PS.1: Implement a "Customer Journey Mapping" program to evaluate the full user experience across common interactions (e.g., permitting, complaints, service requests), identify friction points, and redesign processes from the resident's perspective.

PS.2: Establish a real-time service feedback loop (e.g., post-interaction text/email surveys or QR codes) to capture immediate input on customer experience and allow for rapid response and continuous improvement.

PS.3: Working across city departments as relevant, develop and implement strategies to address perceived or real public service response shortfalls.

PS.4: Provide cross-training between departments and identify opportunities for collaboration and streamlining services.

PS.5: Create a Citywide "Service Excellence Standard" and training program that defines expectations for responsiveness, communication, and accountability across all departments, paired with internal recognition for high-performing staff and teams.



PUBLIC UTILITIES

LARAMIE TODAY

The City of Laramie operates the majority of public utilities in the community; namely water, wastewater, stormwater, and refuse collection. Other utilities, such as electricity, gas, and internet, are provided through franchise agreements with private entities. A variety of internet service providers exist in Laramie while the primary gas provider is Black Hills Energy and primary electric provider is Rocky Mountain Power. In general, the rates in Laramie fall within the midpoint of costs in the State of Wyoming.

The City uses a Capital Investment and Construction Plan to guide local decisions on infrastructure improvements to ensure projects are anticipated and fiscally sound. Infrastructure investments are assessed based on support for community goals, planning across multiple departments, data-driven

prioritization, and life-cycle planning. This asset management approach guides the City to anticipate operational costs and plan for repairs prior to infrastructure nearing failure.

Public Utilities are funded through a variety of means. The City relies on the 6th Penny initiative to fund both common and catalytic capital improvement projects, while on-going maintenance and management considerations are allocated through the general fund. The water, solid waste, and wastewater fund operate through enterprise funds. Enterprise funds are generated by charging customers or other patrons within the City government the cost of the services provided. This multi-faceted approach to funding ensures that the City of Laramie can provide exceptional services in a fiscally responsible manner.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Historically, the City of Laramie has successfully planned and managed large infrastructure investments and routine infrastructure maintenance. Looking ahead, this success will be challenged by the same funding limitations that plague the provision of public services (see also *Public Services*). Additionally, the necessary infrastructure improvements for economic development and the trend of housing scarcity further illustrates the need for Laramie to be creative with future infrastructure financing. The City must assess a variety of means for the future provision of public utilities; including public-private partnerships, continuing specific purpose tax initiatives, and potentially increasing enterprise funds.

GOAL 32 MAINTAIN FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC UTILITIES

32.A CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN

Continue the use of the Capital Investment and Construction Plan as a guide for infrastructure investments. Revisit the document on the continuous two-year cycle to maintain services and document asset management.

32.B COORDINATED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Ensure improvement projects are coordinated with franchise utility providers to increase construction efficiency by minimizing the number and scale of excavations required to install public infrastructure, such as upgrading water and sewer lines while rehabilitating a roadway.

32.C SPECIFIC PURPOSE TAX PROJECTS

Catalogue progress and success on specific purpose tax measures to plan for future requests. Identify growth areas and future projects for specific purpose measures before previous efforts are completed to anticipate ballot initiatives.

32.D DEVELOPMENT IMPACT FEES

Regularly review and update development impact fees and sewer/water connection fees to ensure new developments are paying for the cost of expanding services. Explore Additional Funding Mechanisms for Infrastructure Projects

32.E TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

Continue to work with the development community on infrastructure improvements. This may include but is not limited to tax increment financing through urban renewal and infrastructure reimbursement agreements.

32.F LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Explore the establishment of local improvement districts in key areas of the community with sub-standard infrastructure. This may include areas with unpaved roads, stormwater impacts, or aging water and sewer systems.

32.G GRANT FUNDING

Seek grants that provide investment in water, sewer, and street improvements. Categorize these grants into rehabilitation and maintenance versus new investments.

32.H ENTERPRISE SERVICES

The City of Laramie uses enterprise services to fund water, sewer, and refuse collection services. Identify other services that may qualify for enterprise funding, such as transportation.

GOAL 33 TRANSPARENCY IN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

33.A PUBLIC INPUT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Engage the public in the development of the Capital Investment and Construction Plan. This will allow the public to understand the process and shed light on where infrastructure concerns may be located.

33.B SPECIFIC PURPOSE TAX INFORMATION SESSIONS

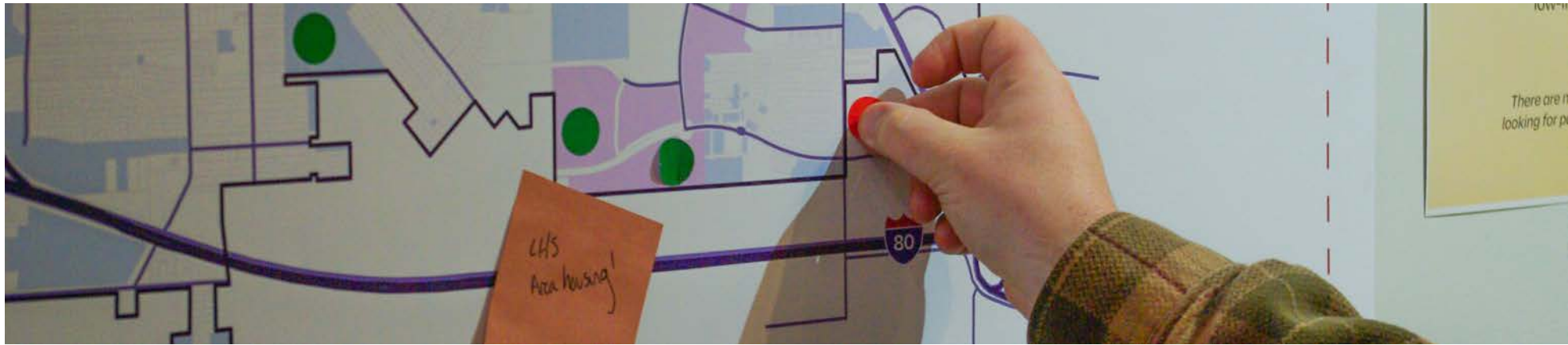
Hold public meetings on the variety of specific purpose tax projects as they are considered. Explain to constituents how these projects are determined, how their budgets are allocated, and how the collection process takes place.

PUBLIC UTILITIES IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Tier 1 actions to:

Develop New and Update Existing Master Plans

Secure Funding Source for Infrastructure Needed to Support Economic and Housing Development



GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS

LARAMIE TODAY

Laramie's small town character and close-knit feel is created in part by community members who actively participate in public meetings and community events. In the spirit of maintaining two-way communication with community members, the City strives to foster collaborative, transparent decision-making and engaging community input opportunities. Locally, this requires the City to attract and retain talented employees, listen and respond to public feedback, and prioritize accountability, efficiency, and innovation in City services and programs. At the regional scale, this means relying on open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving to address issues throughout Albany County – with partner agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and educational institutions.

Soliciting input from a range of voices is necessary to identify issues, opportunities, and solutions to the community's problems. However, the timing of public hearings and awareness of engagement opportunities continue to act as barriers to participation. Ensuring that all community members are effectively represented by the City and have meaningful opportunities to contribute to the planning and decision-making process is important to build trust, and to strengthen the relationship between residents, business owners, and the City.

Technology continues to change the way people interact with their local government, and the variety of communication options necessary to engage diverse voices continues to grow. The City will continue to review and update their modes of engagement as new outreach opportunities arise, taking steps to find the right combination of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities to reach as many constituents as possible.

WHERE WE ARE HEADING

Civic engagement is a valued part of our municipal decision-making process that maximizes local capacity by building upon varied perspectives. Two-way communication sharing fosters trust between community members and City government and furthers Laramie's values of transparency, accountability, and integrity. Looking ahead, the City will continue to foster opportunities for meaningful collaboration and communication with residents, business owners, nonprofit organizations, and partner agencies in pursuit of achieving a brighter future.

GOAL 34 FOSTER COLLABORATION ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ISSUES

34.A COORDINATED PLANNING EFFORTS

Actively participate in countywide, regional, and state-wide policy-setting related to municipal issues— such as land use, utilities, transportation, housing, and environmental management— that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

34.B TOWN-GOWN RELATIONSHIP

Continue to develop and grow partnerships between the City and local education institutions (University of Wyoming, Laramie County Community College, and WyoTech) to ensure efficient use of resources and identify opportunities to attract and retain young people in Laramie.

34.C COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Foster partnerships between the City and other local and regional organizations to share information, use resources efficiently, avoid duplication of efforts, and incorporate best practices.

34.D SERVICE PROVIDERS

Work with and promote coordination among service providers in needs assessment, facility siting, operations, and other matters to ensure delivery of effective and efficient services.

GOAL 35 BUILD COMMUNITY TRUST THROUGH ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE

35.A TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

Respond to changes in technology by testing new tools as they arise and incorporating devices and software that improve access to public hearings and government communications into the City's overall approach to information sharing. See also *Goal 31: Use Technology to Supplement the Provision of Services*.

35.B TRADITIONAL INFORMATION SHARING

Maintain traditional, non-digital avenues of information sharing and outreach, such as paper questionnaires and printed announcements, that are accessible to community members of all ages and ability levels.

35.C GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Adopt and implement practices and systems that are open and accountable to the public. Provide approachable platforms for the community to engage with City staff. Assist community members in understanding City processes, with an emphasis on transparency in budget setting and decision-making processes.

GOAL 36 CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN CITY DECISION-MAKING

36.A PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT METHODS

Employ a variety of public engagement methods (such as open houses, pop-up activities, online questionnaires, and interactive mapping tools) to involve all members of the community, including harder-to-reach populations, in City projects. Continuously evaluate public engagement methods to determine if new options are needed to meet community needs.

36.B PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARINGS

Continuously evaluate public notice requirements to verify that residents and property owners are properly notified of upcoming public hearings. Ensure that the City's public notice and hearing procedures go above and beyond the provisions established by Wyoming Statutes.

36.C PUBLIC COMMENT

Educate community members on the types of public engagement opportunities provided by the City. Clarify how public input will be considered in different types of development review decisions.

36.D CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Provide a range of opportunities for community members to volunteer for and learn about the City of Laramie organization. Encourage and appoint volunteers with different backgrounds and life experiences to serve on the City's boards, committees, commissions, and other outreach teams.



36.E YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Explore opportunities for engaging and actively soliciting input from youth in local government. Explore and promote additional opportunities to work with Albany County School District, University of Wyoming, Laramie County Community College, and WyoTech on special projects.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

See Tier 1 actions to:

Create Citywide Engagement Toolkit or Resource Guide for Engagement Efforts

GC.1: Continue to work with the University of Wyoming on land disposal, transfer, and acquisition opportunities.

GC.2: Establish a formal process to monitor Comprehensive Plan implementation that outlines review frequency and includes updates to boards and commissions.

GC.3: Work with local service providers to catalog the full range of services provided by Laramie and Albany County providers.

GC.4: Identify opportunities and allocate funding for continuing education and training existing City employees on how to use new technology as it relates to their jobs.

GC.5: Create a civic engagement program to educate the community on the roles and responsibilities of each department, the powers of elected officials, and ways to participate in public processes.

GC.6: Conduct an audit of recent City-led engagement efforts to determine which public engagement approaches are most effective in Laramie.

GC.7: Continue to partner with local educational institutions to identify opportunities for mutually-beneficial student engagement in City planning efforts (such as through collegiate capstone projects).

GC.8: Create a citywide engagement toolkit or resource guide to streamline engagement efforts and ensure broad community participation.

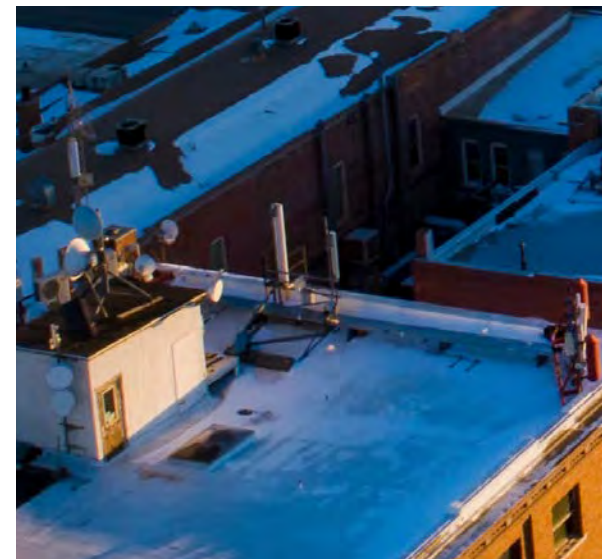
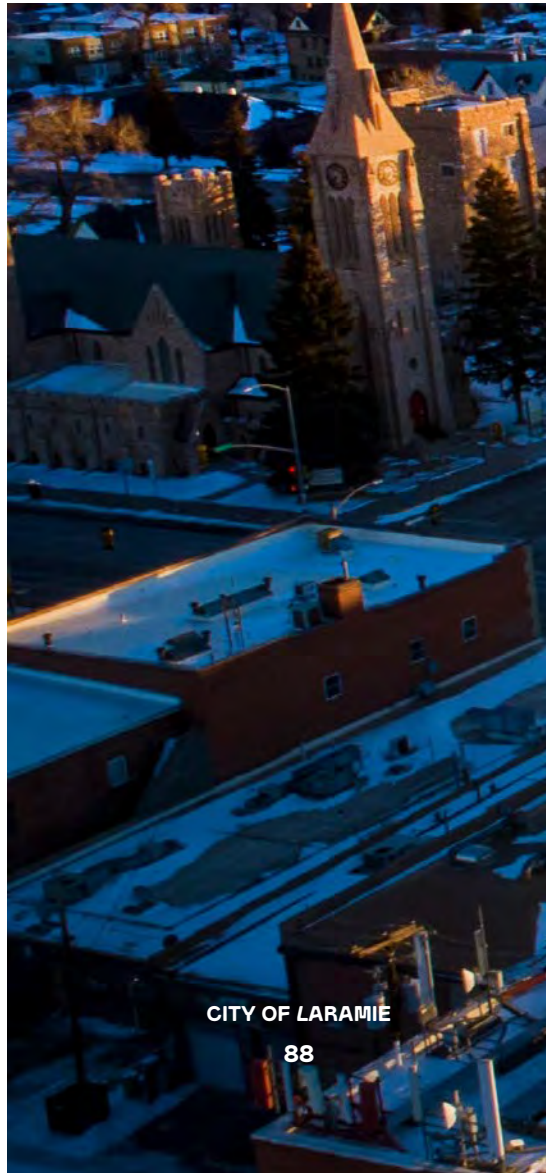


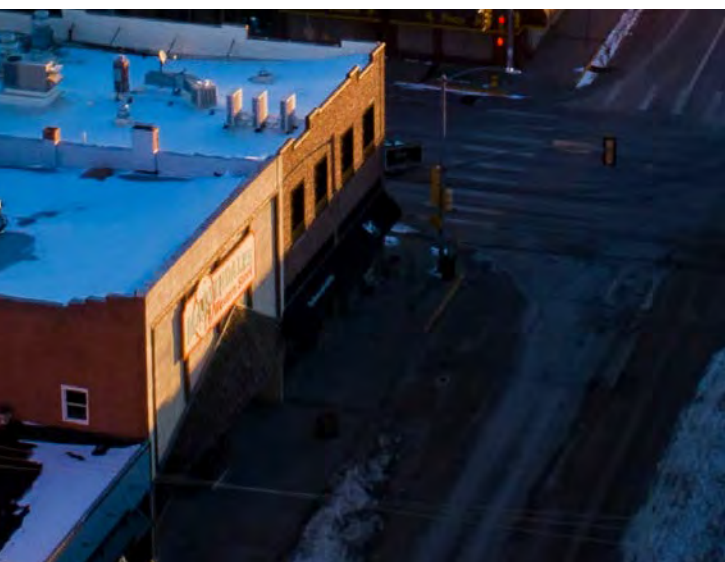
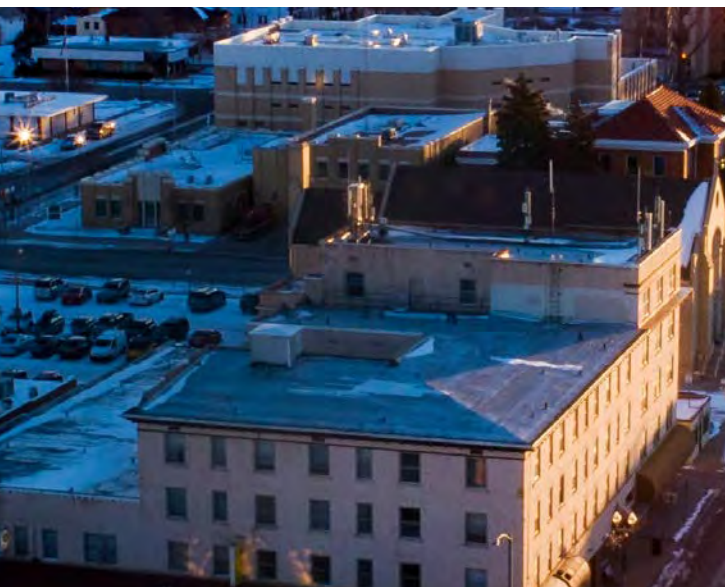
CHAPTER 7

FUTURE LAND USE AND CHARACTER FRAMEWORK



Laramie's Future Land Use and Character Framework will guide land use policy decision-making, particularly for proposed land use and development applications considered by the City. While the policies included in the previous chapters are generally applicable to all areas within Laramie, the Future Land Use and Character Framework is designed to provide specific guidance for different Future Land Use and Character areas across the community. It ties the general policies to specific places, such as identifying areas where housing development is a strategic priority and places where land conservation is a priority given environmental considerations. This allows the city to more closely evaluate and apply land use and character policies that apply to areas with a common neighborhood or community design. It will be used by city staff, the Planning Commission, and City Council to guide decisions about how and where Laramie will develop in the future.





GROWTH AREA AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of Laramie has used its planning and zoning powers authorized through the Wyoming State Statute for many years. The growth patterns and established community character in different parts of the city have been defined by land use planning decisions and applied zoning regulations. As the City has annexed property over time, both the City's corporate limits and its planning area boundary have grown. This planning area incorporates 11,637 acres of land.

FUTURE LAND USE

Future land use planning is visionary in nature by design. Differing from existing land use that focuses on the actual uses and design of places found on the ground, future land use expresses the city's intent for growth and change that may occur in the future.

The Future Land Use Plan (FLUP) established in the 2007 Laramie Comprehensive Plan was the foundation for development of the following Future Land Use and Character Framework. The FLUP set out a series of 13 Future Land Use Classifications that were applied throughout the City's planning area (corporate limits plus a one-mile boundary around the city for long-range planning purposes.) These classifications identified appropriate land uses and zoning districts to be applied to different areas, the intensity of development, and the average lot area anticipated for new development and redevelopment. The FLUP was designed to both guide rational growth patterns to align with existing infrastructure and encourage infill and redevelopment, and to protect and maintain community character through the application of the different classifications.



GROWTH AREA PLAN

To address projected outward growth, the coordination of development patterns across jurisdictions, and the provision of utilities, the City of Laramie and Albany County undertook development of a joint Laramie Growth Area Plan in 2022. The study area includes lands adjacent to the City of Laramie's boundary within unincorporated Albany County that are anticipated to grow or experience growth pressures on an incremental basis over time.

The year long process defined the vision for areas that can appropriately grow and receive urban services, and areas that should maintain rural character at the edges of the growth area. This planning approach avoids "leapfrog" development by supporting growth near the city and established services. It also reduces challenges related to providing public services within fragmented jurisdictional boundaries. Key themes that guided development of the plan include:

- Provide adequate workforce and attainable housing
- Diversify economic development opportunities
- Improve connectivity (roads, trails, and neighborhoods)
- Improve access to outdoor recreation (open space, parks, and trails)
- Protect water quality
- Consider impacts to the cost of development
- Enforce development regulations (zoning, building codes, and development standards)
- Financial responsibility for infrastructure
- Collaborate with the University of Wyoming

The planning process included an assessment of potable water and sanitary sewer services to identify capacity needed to serve projected residential, commercial, and industrial uses described in the Growth Area Plan. Correspondingly, a fiscal assessment was prepared to evaluate the revenues and costs associated with different types of land uses that could be built within the growth area. All but retail uses were identified as creating a negative fiscal impact on the community, underscoring the need to support commercial development and leverage other revenue sources to pay for future public services and facilities.

The plan establishes future land use categories for the growth area and will be used as a guide for development decisions made on projects located outside the City's corporate limits. A key implementation component of this plan is the adoption of a common Overlay Zoning District (a zoning district that is applied on top of the base zoning district in each jurisdiction and includes additional provisions for joint planning and development review) for the study area and a corresponding intergovernmental agreement between the City of Laramie and Albany County that assigns specific roles in the development review process for both parties. Implementation of these tools is a next step for plan implementation.

VISION FOR FUTURE LAND USE

The City's vision for future land use is focused on supporting economic development to advance Laramie's fiscal and economic health. This objective is supported by several key factors:

- Providing a **greater variety of housing choices** to meet the needs of current and future residents and worker households;
- Supporting **infill and redevelopment** to maximize use of existing infrastructure and revitalize already developed places;
- Promoting a **mix of uses in appropriate locations** to create a greater fiscal return on investment and create new forms of development that residents have asked for;
- Creating **quality designed places that incorporate open space, public amenities, and connectivity** for pedestrians and bicyclists during the warmer months, and offer vibrant public spaces where residents can come together in community during the winter;
- Providing **greater connectivity between neighborhoods and destinations** in the city and regional assets beyond Laramie, and
- Stewarding **important environmental assets**, such as the Casper Aquifer and the Laramie River.



MIDDLE INFILL HOUSING

"Middle housing" describes residential structures that sit on the spectrum between detached single-family housing and larger multifamily apartment complexes. Middle housing types are preferred for residential infill projects because they can be designed to provide more than one housing unit on a lot without disrupting the character or feel of the neighborhood. The graphic above depicts examples of middle housing typologies.



FUTURE LAND USE AND CHARACTER FRAMEWORK

The Future Land Use and Character Framework (map and related categories) identifies the intended future use, building patterns, and general character of future development and redevelopment within Laramie's planning area. These future land use and character classifications provide policy guidance for decision-makers as they evaluate the appropriateness of development proposals like rezonings. The Future Land Use and Character Framework was developed using the 2007 Comprehensive Plan as a foundation and was modified to support the following objectives:

- Provide flexibility for development of residential uses, particularly middle housing options (duplex, triplex, quadplex, townhomes)
- Create more opportunities for mixed use development that is designed as horizontal (residential and commercial uses side by side)

or vertical (stacked developments, typically with residential on top of office or commercial uses)

- Support the use of multi-modal access so that residents that bike, walk, or drive can access different areas and destinations
- Better reflect recent development approvals

The following map was developed to provide general guidance regarding land development, annexation, and capital planning decisions. To best interpret which category should apply to a property located in an edge condition between categories, discretion should be used to identify the most appropriate fit given the site conditions and surrounding context.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING

Future land use designations are different from zoning regulations, but they work together to shape the places we live, work, and play in. The Future Land Use and Character Framework establishes the policy guidance for how property can actually **be used** (such as for housing, office space, shopping centers, schools, or factories). The City uses this guidance to establish zoning regulations, which are the laws that dictate how property can **be developed** (such as where certain uses are permitted, how tall buildings can be, and how many trees or off-street parking spaces must be provided on site).



OPEN LANDS

Agriculture
Parks and Open Space



NEIGHBORHOODS

Estate Residential
Suburban Neighborhood
Compact Neighborhood
Multifamily Neighborhood
Urban Neighborhood



COMMERCE

Neighborhood Commercial
Community Commercial
Core Commercial
Industrial



SPECIAL AREAS

Urban University
Public/Institutional

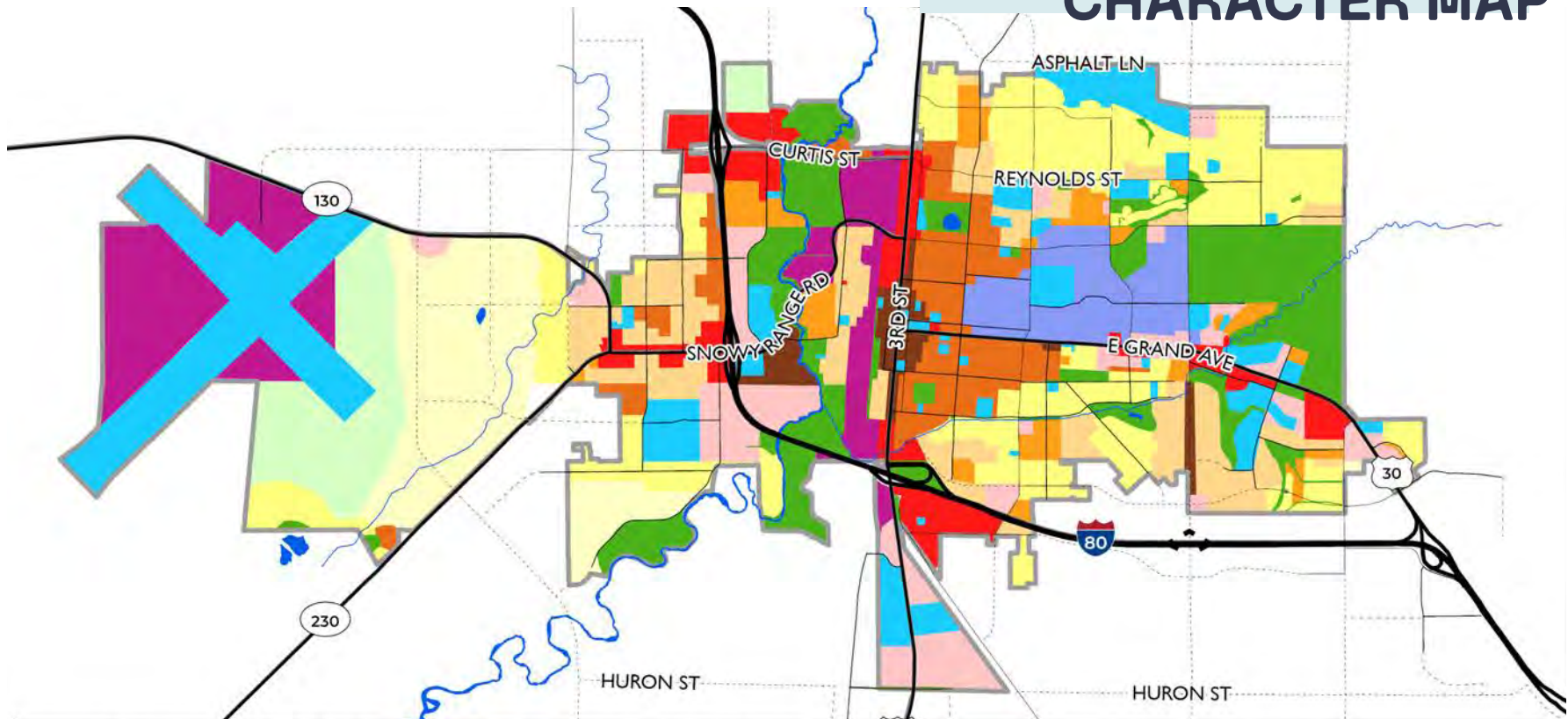
LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

The Future Land Use and Character Map designates 13 classifications that are envisioned for the future of Laramie's planning area grouped in four categories, as shown above.

The following map and classifications make up the Future Land Use and Character Framework. Each classification includes a description of each category, primary and secondary land uses, applicable zoning, and images to define the intent. Primary uses are defined as being the predominant use in an area, whereas secondary land uses may be found in an area but are not the predominant use. Below is the Future Land Use and Character Map that defines the appropriate classification for all areas within the City's growth area.



FUTURE LAND USE AND CHARACTER MAP



Forge Laramie Plan Future Land Use and Character Category

Open Lands

- Agriculture
- Parks and Open Space

Neighborhoods

- Estate Residential
- Suburban Neighborhood
- Compact Neighborhood
- Multifamily Neighborhood
- Urban Neighborhood

Commerce

- Neighborhood Commercial
- Community Commercial
- Core Commercial
- Industrial

Special Areas

- University Owned
- Public / Institutional

Laramie City Boundary

CITY OF LARAMIE

AGRICULTURE

DESCRIPTION

Agriculture future land use areas include rural lands dominated by agricultural uses with limited housing. The landscape is characterized by ranches, farmsteads, barns, fences, livestock areas, and a virtually unbroken horizon.

INTENT

Land is not intended to be subdivided and developed at a suburban or urban scale within the horizon of the plan. In the most rural areas, agriculture is intended as the sole use. Private well and septic systems support water and wastewater needs.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Agricultural (AG), Open (O)

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



EXAMPLE PATTERN



USES

Primary Uses	Farms, ranches, equestrian facilities, and open lands
Secondary Uses	Animal sales and services; Public and utility uses; Single-family detached (including modular and manufactured housing)

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	1 dwelling unit / 35 acres or lower density
Building Height	Generally up to three stories, but can go higher



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



DESCRIPTION

Parks and Open Space future land use areas provide lands for recreational use and natural areas serving as habitat or protected for scenic value. This may include both passive and active parklands.

INTENT

These areas are generally owned and managed by public agencies but can also include privately owned lands protected through conservation easements or similar voluntary mechanisms. They are intended to stay in their natural or park state in perpetuity or until the landowner identifies a more appropriate use.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

These uses are generally permissible in all zoning districts.

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



EXAMPLE PATTERN



USES

Primary Uses	Open lands, parks, and recreational facilities
Secondary Uses	n/a

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	n/a
Building Height	Recreational facilities are generally up to two stories, but can go higher

ESTATE RESIDENTIAL

DESCRIPTION

Estate Residential future land use areas provide neighborhoods and individual homes on larger lots than found in the core of the city.

INTENT

These areas serve as a transition between large acreage rural homes in the Agriculture category and city neighborhoods. Development is intended to produce a visual openness, with open space remaining dominant and homes are secondary to the landscape. Either private well and septic systems or public water and wastewater systems support these areas.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Limited Single-Family Residential (LR)

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



USES

Primary Uses	Single-family detached (including modular and manufactured housing)
Secondary Uses	Public and utility uses

EXAMPLE PATTERN



BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	0.03–3 dwelling units/1 acre PUD densities may be higher
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SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD

DESCRIPTION

Suburban Neighborhood future land use areas include established and new residential neighborhood developments. These areas typically do not include non-residential uses, but may offer a clubhouse or other public or private neighborhood amenities.

INTENT

Both existing and new suburban neighborhoods are opportunities to provide missing middle housing that is designed to provide smaller single-family detached homes, such as cottage courts or multi-unit buildings designed using single-family detached building forms.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Single-Family Residential (R1)

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



USES

Primary Uses	Single-family detached
Secondary Uses	Accessory dwelling units, single-family attached, duplex, triplex, or other smaller scale housing; Neighborhood amenities (clubhouses); Public and utility uses

EXAMPLE PATTERN



BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	4-10 dwelling units/1 acre
Building Height	Generally up to three stories, but can go higher

COMPACT NEIGHBORHOOD

DESCRIPTION

Compact Neighborhood future land use areas include a mix of single-family and attached housing units, typically located along major road corridors. Access to units is from alleys or on-street driveways.

INTENT

New development can include new missing middle housing options, such as duplexes, triplexes, and cottage courts. They should provide parks and public open space to add natural areas to these neighborhoods.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Single-Family Residential (R1) and Limited Multi-Family (R2) and a future new district that allows for medium-density single and multi-family housing

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



EXAMPLE PATTERN



USES

Primary Uses	Single-family detached, single-family attached, townhomes
Secondary Uses	Accessory dwelling units, duplex, triplex, or other smaller scale housing; Neighborhood amenities (clubhouses); Public and utility uses

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	8-16 dwelling units/1 acre
Building Height	Generally up to three stories, but can go higher



MULTIFAMILY NEIGHBORHOOD



DESCRIPTION

Multifamily Neighborhood future land use areas include multifamily housing types at a variety of densities and scales, typically located along major road corridors. Access to units is from alleys or parking lots accessed from main road.

INTENT

These areas are opportunities for higher density housing that can create walkable neighborhoods. New development can also include new missing middle housing options and should provide parks and public open space to add natural areas to these neighborhoods.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Limited Multi-Family (R2), Limited Multi-family with Independent Manufactured Homes (R2M), and Multi-Family (R3)

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



EXAMPLE PATTERN



USES

Primary Uses	Apartments, condominiums, townhomes, and manufactured home communities
Secondary Uses	Duplex, triplex, or other smaller scale housing; Neighborhood amenities (clubhouses); Public and utility uses

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	16-32 dwelling units/1 acre Can be higher for multifamily
Building Height	Generally up to four stories, but can go higher

URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD



DESCRIPTION

Urban Neighborhood future land use areas include homes built in older, walkable neighborhoods near the downtown core.

INTENT

These areas are opportunities for smaller footprint multi-family and missing middle housing that can support walkable neighborhoods.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Limited Multi-family with Independent Manufactured Homes (R2M), and Multi-Family (R3) and a future new district that targets medium-density single and multi-family housing

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



EXAMPLE PATTERN



USES

Primary Uses	Single-family detached, single-family attached, smaller footprint apartments and condominiums, townhomes, and manufactured home communities
Secondary Uses	Accessory dwelling units, duplex, triplex, or other smaller scale housing; Neighborhood amenities (clubhouses); Small-scale commercial; Public and utility uses

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	8-20 dwelling units/1 acre Can be higher for multifamily
Building Height	Generally up to three stories, but can go higher



NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL

DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood Commercial future land use areas include neighborhood-scale commercial uses that use site design and landscaping to transition to adjacent residential neighborhoods.

INTENT

These areas are opportunities for smaller footprint businesses, traditional shopping centers, and smaller office and professional service developments. These should be designed to be accessed via car, bike, and walking from adjacent neighborhoods. This can also include accessory residential uses to support affordable housing as horizontal or vertical mixed use. Public spaces such as plazas are encouraged.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Neighborhood Business (NB), Limited Business (B1), and General Commercial (C2).

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



USES

Primary Uses	Retail commercial; Office uses
Secondary Uses	Duplex, triplex, or other smaller scale housing; Live/work or multifamily residential units; Public and utility uses

EXAMPLE PATTERN



BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	n/a
Building Height	Generally up to three stories, but can go higher

COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL

DESCRIPTION

Community Commercial future land use areas include commercial and office uses that serve the larger community and are typically located along major thoroughfares.

INTENT

These areas are opportunities for encouraging walkable, mixed-use development that is predominantly non-residential on first floors and can provide residential on upper stories. These should be designed to be accessed via car, bike, and walking from adjacent neighborhoods. Public spaces such as parks and plazas are encouraged. Shared parking between uses is encouraged.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Neighborhood Business (NB), Limited Business (B1), and General Commercial (C2).

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



USES

Primary Uses	Entertainment; Lodging; Mixed uses; Retail commercial; Personal services; Office uses
Secondary Uses	Multifamily and attached single-family housing; Public and utility uses

EXAMPLE PATTERN



BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	n/a
Building Height	Generally up to five stories, but can go higher



CORE COMMERCIAL

DESCRIPTION

Core Commercial future land use areas include commercial and office uses located within the downtown core and West Side. These areas are designed to be the most compact and walkable format for commercial development.

INTENT

Core Commercial future land use areas should be revitalized and developed in alignment with the Downtown Development Plan, the Design Guidelines for Historic Downtown Laramie, and future small area plans. Guidance provided in this comprehensive plan is general in nature and these other documents should serve as the primary guide for future development and design decisions.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Downtown Commercial (DC), Neighborhood Business (NB), Limited Business (B1), Business (2), and General Commercial (C2).

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



USES

Primary Uses	Entertainment; Lodging; Mixed uses; Retail commercial; Personal services; Office uses
Secondary Uses	Multifamily housing; Live/work housing; Public and utility uses

EXAMPLE PATTERN



BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	n/a
Building Height	Generally up to five stories, but can go higher

INDUSTRIAL

DESCRIPTION

Industrial future land use areas include employment uses, such as manufacturing facilities, warehouses, and industrial parks. They are generally located near the Laramie Regional Airport and east of I-80. These areas can also include commercial development to provide supportive uses to industrial businesses.

INTENT

These areas primarily serve as functional employment areas and are not intended to have the same level of walkability and public spaces as Commerce areas. Landscaping, buffering, and basic pedestrian access is needed between parking areas and businesses. Shared parking between businesses is preferred to maximize the use of land.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Limited Manufacturing (LM), Industrial Park (IP), Industrial (I), and Technology and Office (TO).

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



EXAMPLE PATTERN



USES

Primary Uses	Flex, industrial, manufacturing, and warehousing.
Secondary Uses	Supportive retail commercial uses; Office; and Public and utility uses

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	n/a
Building Height	Generally up to three stories, but can go higher



URBAN UNIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION

Urban University future land uses include the University of Wyoming campus. UW creates and applies its own master plan for the campus and as an instrument of the state, it does not have to comply with local zoning regulations. Non-campus areas adjacent to UW are also included in this category.

INTENT

This area is intended to replicate Urban Neighborhood and Core Commercial development patterns in areas adjacent to campus to promote an urban, walkable environment. UW and the City of Laramie can share information about developments on and nearby campus to coordinate planning and infrastructure investments.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

Downtown Core (DC) and Multifamily (R3).

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



USES

Primary Uses	Entertainment; Mixed uses; Retail commercial; Personal services; Office uses; Multifamily
Secondary Uses	Public and utility uses

EXAMPLE PATTERN



BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	Up to 32 dwelling units / 1 acre May be higher for PUD developments
Building Height	n/a

PUBLIC / INSTITUTIONAL

DESCRIPTION

Public / Institutional future land use areas include the Laramie Regional Airport, WyoTech, and other public and institutional uses, such as government facilities and schools.

INTENT

These areas provide a wide range of public and quasi-public uses within the community. Uses that are designed to encourage public access, such as government facilities and schools, should be designed as walkable developments.

APPLICABLE ZONING DISTRICTS

n/a

EXAMPLE CHARACTER



EXAMPLE PATTERN



USES

Primary Uses	Airport; Offices; Schools
Secondary Uses	Public and utility uses

BUILDING BLOCKS

Intensity/Density	n/a
Building Height	n/a



FUTURE LAND USE AND CHARACTER RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the policies set out in previous chapters, the following Recommendations will guide decision-making and implementation efforts to achieve the City's community priorities. Update Zoning to Align with Future Land Use and Character Categories

New Zoning District to Support Missing Middle Infill and Redevelopment. Prepare a new zoning district category that allows for medium density housing and missing middle housing types, similar to Multifamily (R3) but that supports a density cap to encourage "gentle density" in appropriate areas without the risk of allowing for more intensive multifamily apartment complexes. Densities could range from 8-16 dwelling units / 1 acre. This is important not only to encourage medium-density development that is less intensive and visually impactful on neighboring properties, but also to manage the infrastructure needs of new proposed developments.

New Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District.

To support smaller scale businesses that may want to locate proximate to existing residential neighborhoods, the City should add a new Neighborhood Commercial Zoning District that is tailored to neighborhood serving commercial retail and office uses.

Consider Lot Consolidation Limits for Older Neighborhoods. To encourage production of more housing units and maintaining character of older neighborhoods, undertake analysis to prepare lot consolidation limits for residential zoning districts that apply within older neighborhoods, primarily that are included in the Urban Neighborhood Future Land Use and Character category.

EVALUATE DATA CENTER OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPACTS

As AI (artificial intelligence) and related technologies advance across the nation and around the globe, communities are seeing a significant uptick in proposals for data centers to house and distribute this technology. Data centers produce both benefits and costs to communities, and should be evaluated carefully to determine if and where they are appropriate. Key objectives that are recommended to be achieved through the permitting of data centers includes:

- Support expansion of the local economy and fiscal tax base
- Protect important natural resources and wildlife habitat corridors
- Manage local utility demands (water and electricity) and ensure long-term capacity to serve the community
- Minimize noise, viewshed, air quality, water quality, stormwater, and other impacts on neighboring properties
- Utilize lands that are appropriate for industrial uses



COORDINATE WITH ALBANY COUNTY TO IMPLEMENT THE LARAMIE AREA GROWTH PLAN

Laramie should continue to coordinate with Albany County to share information on development proposals for projects located near the edge of jurisdictional boundaries. This will allow the City and County to plan for future transportation, public services, and infrastructure impacts. To fully implement the Laramie Growth Area Plan, the City should work with the County to develop an inter-governmental agreement for lands within the plan's study area to achieve the objectives set out in the plan.

For future annexations within the Laramie Area Growth Plan study area, the City should use the following Future Land Use and Character classifications to determine the appropriate land use and zoning districts for these areas.

TABLE 7.1: FUTURE LAND USE AND CHARACTER CATEGORIES TO APPLY WITHIN LARAMIE GROWTH AREA PLAN CATEGORIES

LARAMIE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FUTURE LAND USE AND CHARACTER CATEGORY	LARAMIE GROWTH AREA PLAN FUTURE LAND USE CATEGORY
Agriculture	Agricultural, UW Agricultural
Estate Residential	Rural Residential, Ranchette
Suburban Neighborhood	Suburban Residential, Urban Residential
Multifamily Neighborhood	Multifamily Residential
Neighborhood Commercial	Neighborhood Commercial
Community Commercial	Community Commercial
Industrial	Industrial
Public/Institutional	Public
Parks and Open Space	Natural Areas/Parks/Open Space



COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR PLANNING SUBAREAS

This Comprehensive Plan sets out to achieve five key community priorities for Laramie over the next twenty years. In addition to the Future Land Use and Character Framework that guides land use and development, this section provides guidance on how the five community priorities will be implemented within six general planning subareas:

- **Airport** includes the Laramie Regional Airport and surrounding industrial and commercial properties.
- **Central West** includes West Laramie neighborhoods, WyoTech, and commercial and residential areas west of I-80.
- **Central East** includes the Laramie River, the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic site, West Side and other commercial and residential neighborhoods east of the railroad line and downtown.
- **Core** includes the historic core of the City along with key commercial corridors, the University of Wyoming campus, and surrounding neighborhoods. It is bound by I-80 to the south and west,

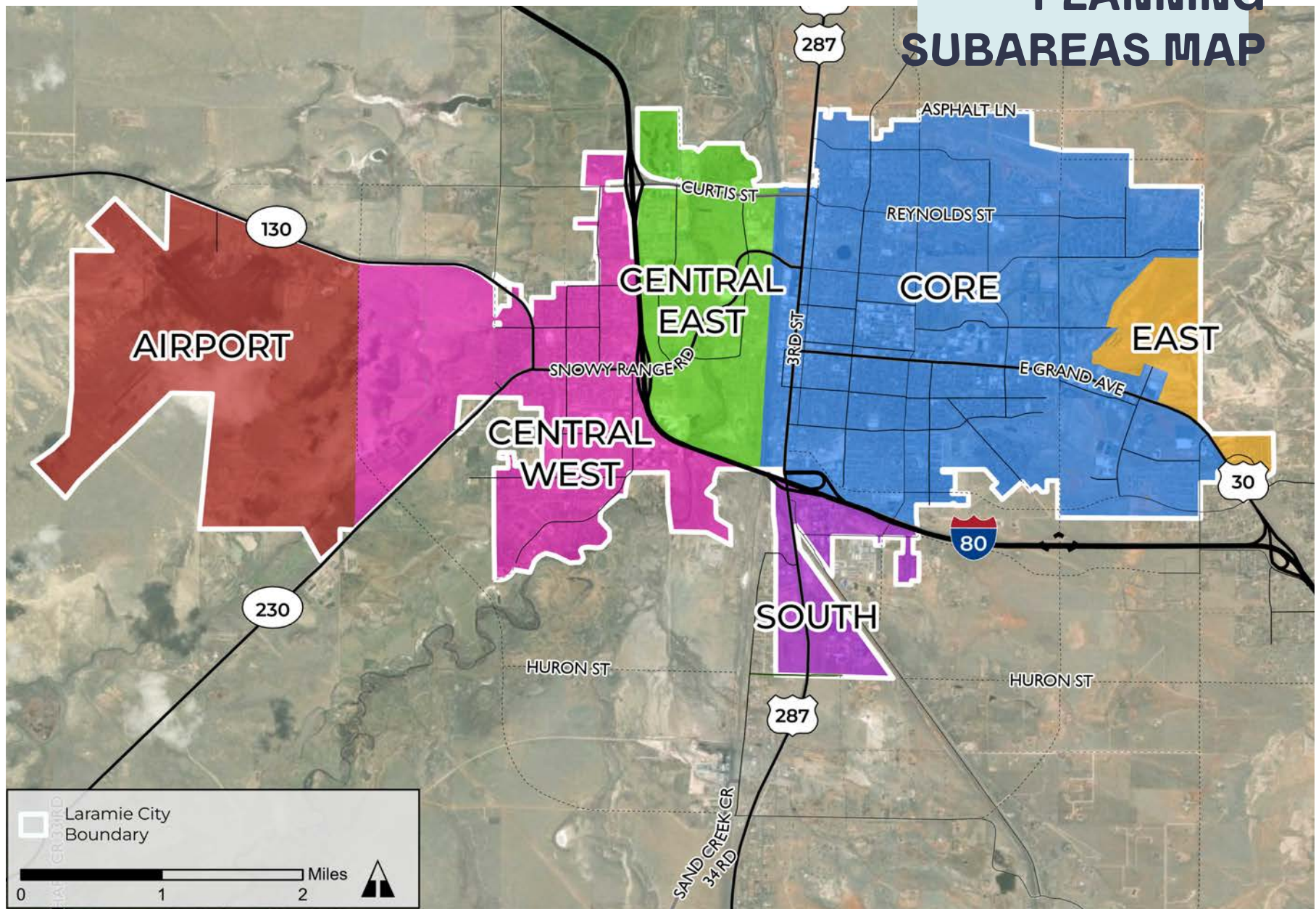
and generally the City's corporate limits to the north east.

- **East** includes the areas that are protected by the Casper Aquifer overlay and is generally agricultural or residential in nature.
- **South** is that area south of I-80 that is primarily planned for commercial development.

Each of these areas has unique opportunities and challenges that play a role in determining how the community priorities will be best achieved.



PLANNING SUBAREAS MAP



CITY OF LARAMIE

AIRPORT SUBAREA

COMMUNITY PRIORITY	APPLICATION IN AIRPORT SUBAREA
Work and Prosper	• Support new land uses to expand revenue generation for airport
Live and Belong	• Support placemaking efforts at gateways of airport and entrances to new developments
Connect and Nurture	• Maintain connectivity between airport and core areas of City and consider providing staging areas for tour buses when not in use
Steward and Conserve	• Incorporate open spaces as part of new developments • Continue to address flood prone areas and reduce impacts on development
Serve and Collaborate	• Maintain and enhance existing infrastructure

CENTRAL WEST SUBAREA

COMMUNITY PRIORITY	APPLICATION IN CENTRAL WEST SUBAREA
Work and Prosper	• Build on Wyotech and other employment uses and support additional business development • Support infill, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse
Live and Belong	• Support gateway improvements to enhance the visual experience of the city's entrances • Provide a mix of housing options that provide choices to households, with more diversity of unit types located as guided by the Future Land Use and Character Framework • Ensure important buffering or design transitions between higher and lower intensity uses to reduce incompatibilities
Connect and Nurture	• Enhance connections between West Laramie and downtown through Reconnect Laramie Plan implementation • Provide more recreational assets and trails in this area
Steward and Conserve	• Incorporate open spaces as part of new developments • Continue to address flood prone areas and reduce impacts on development • Continue to support UW Agriculture
Serve and Collaborate	• Expand infrastructure to support development in areas that are not currently served as guided by the Future Land Use and Character Framework



CENTRAL EAST SUBAREA

COMMUNITY PRIORITY	APPLICATION IN CENTRAL EAST SUBAREA
Work and Prosper	• Encourage industrial and commercial development along the I-80/3rd Street corridor • Encourage businesses supporting outdoor recreation activities, particularly for the Laramie River • Support infill, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse
Live and Belong	• Provide a mix of housing options that provide choices to households, with more diversity of unit types located as guided by the Future Land Use and Character Framework • Support neighborhood scale mixed use to provide proximate amenities to neighborhoods and encourage them to incorporate public spaces • Ensure infill designs and uses mitigate impacts on neighboring properties
Connect and Nurture	• Enhance connections between downtown and points west through Reconnect Laramie Plan implementation
Steward and Conserve	• Incorporate open spaces as part of new developments • Continue to address flood prone areas and reduce impacts on development
Serve and Collaborate	• Expand infrastructure to support development in areas that are not currently served as guided by the Future Land Use and Character Framework

CORE SUBAREA

COMMUNITY PRIORITY	APPLICATION IN CORE SUBAREA
Work and Prosper	• Support neighborhood and community commercial as identified in the Future Land Use and Character Framework • Support infill, redevelopment and adaptive reuse
Live and Belong	• Support neighborhood scale mixed use to provide proximate amenities to neighborhoods and encourage them to incorporate public spaces • Provide opportunities for missing middle housing and other more affordable housing options • Support gateway improvements to enhance the visual experience of the city's entrances
Connect and Nurture	• Design new or retrofit older developments to support pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods and destinations • Encourage development of parks and public spaces and facilities as part of new development
Steward and Conserve	• Incorporate open spaces as part of new developments • Continue to address flood prone areas and reduce impacts on development
Serve and Collaborate	• Expand infrastructure to support development in areas that are not currently served as guided by the Future Land Use and Character Framework

EAST SUBAREA

COMMUNITY PRIORITY	APPLICATION IN EAST SUBAREA
Work and Prosper	Limit growth to protect the Casper Aquifer and maintain rural character
Live and Belong	- Support residential densities appropriate for this area, as defined by the Future Land Use and Character Framework - Support gateway improvements to enhance the visual experience of the city's entrances
Connect and Nurture	- Continue to provide access to Pilot Hill - Support additional trail development
Steward and Conserve	Maintain low-density development to protect Casper Aquifer
Serve and Collaborate	Limit infrastructure growth in this area

SOUTH SUBAREA

COMMUNITY PRIORITY	APPLICATION IN SOUTH SUBAREA
Work and Prosper	- Support business and industrial expansion as guided by the Future Land Use and Character Framework - Support infill, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse
Live and Belong	- Support gateway improvements to enhance the visual experience of the city's entrances - Encourage placemaking as part of new commercial development
Connect and Nurture	- Support development of commercial areas to points north, including safe and accessible pedestrian, bicycle, and automobile access - Encourage development of parks and public spaces and facilities as part of new development
Steward and Conserve	Continue to address flood prone areas and reduce impacts on development
Serve and Collaborate	Expand infrastructure to support development in areas that are not currently served as guided by the Future Land Use and Character Framework



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Keep moving, there's more to see!



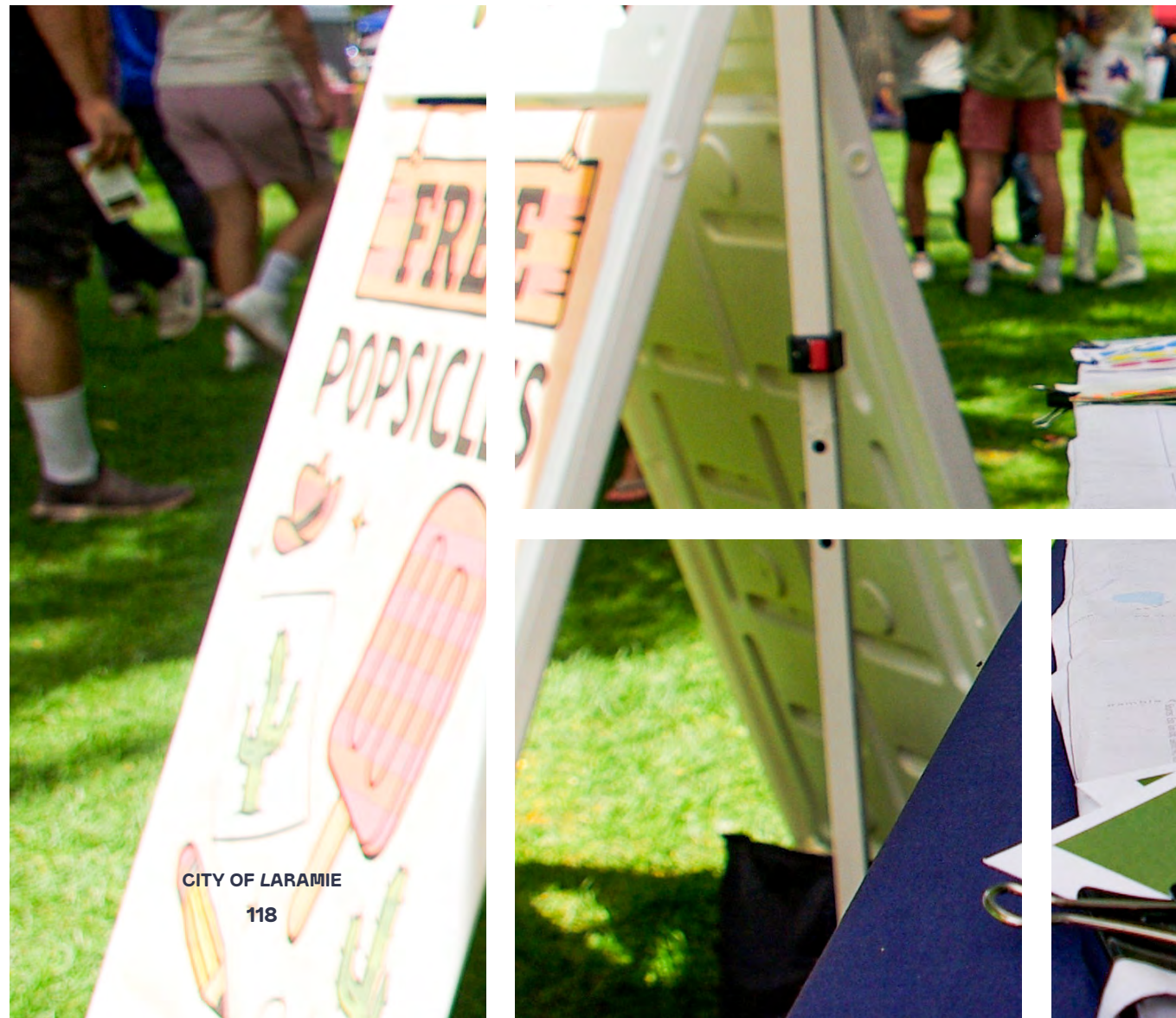


CHAPTER 8

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The real value of planning comes through the implementation of collectively supported ideas. Achieving the community priorities identified in this plan will require intentional actions that are carried out through several City processes:

- Using the plan policies and the Future Land Use and Character Framework to guide development decisions, including City staff reports, and Planning Commission and City Council decision-making
- Considering the policy guidance and priority (Tier 1) actions of the plan as part of annual departmental work plans, City Council Goals, annual budgeting, and capital improvement plan decision-making
- Convening community partners to support implementation of priority (Tier 1) actions





GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Plan implementation will use the following guiding principles:

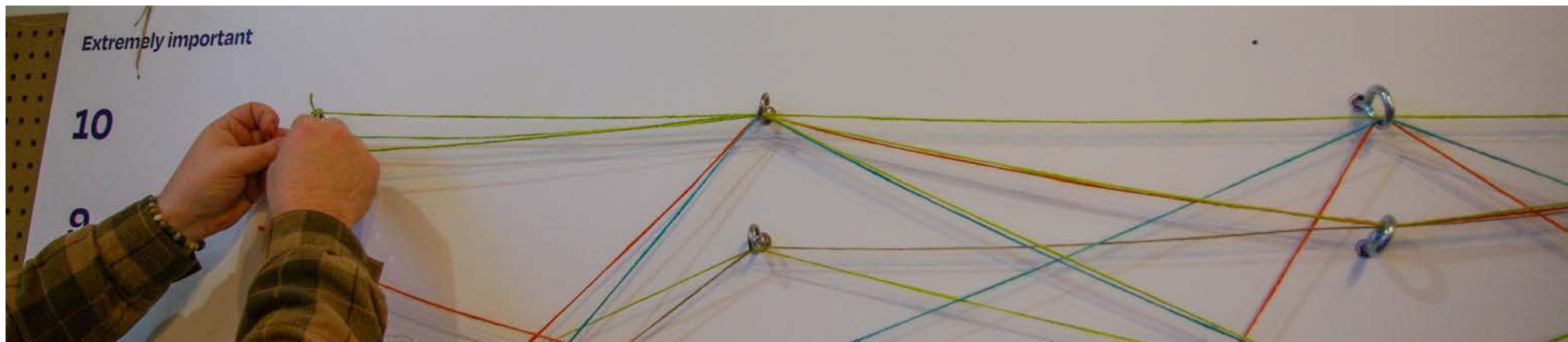
1. The City will take a proactive and strategic implementation approach that aligns the initiation of actions with the appropriate allocation of fiscal resources, City staff capacity, and support from community partners. This “pay as you go” approach will allow the City to prioritize key actions for implementation as resources are available, while being flexible to address unforeseen circumstances that can impact implementation efforts.

2. Events such as the COVID-19 pandemic or a major infrastructure failure cannot be fully planned for, and therefore the City needs discretion on when to initiate implementation efforts to align with immediate public service and facility priorities.

This flexibility is also needed to address state mandated changes, such as potential cuts to future revenue sources. This will allow the City Council and the larger City staff team to consider all needs holistically when making strategic investment decisions.

3. In alignment with this approach, the **City will ensure that dedicated funding to maintain existing infrastructure will be used for such, and not for the purpose of adding new infrastructure.**

This will result in a better return on investment as deferred maintenance on public infrastructure and facilities can often result in more costly replacement in future years.



LINKAGE TO CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Laramie's City Council prepares goals that articulate the specific objectives to be worked on in the following fiscal year. Updated annually, the priority (Tier 1) actions included within this comprehensive plan can be used as an inventory for consideration when updating future City Council goals, tying implementation of this plan to the City's strategic goals and departmental work plans.



TAKING ACTION

This plan sets out several different types of actions to implement the City's community priorities:

- Regulatory updates,
- Capital investments and funding programs,
- Further planning efforts and initiatives, and
- Partnership opportunities.

These actions will be undertaken by the City and its partners as identified in the Action Plan. To support collaboration, City departments will work together to discuss and coordinate on recommendations to be included in departmental work plans and requests for budgeted resources. The City's Executive Leadership Team will identify opportunities and needs to cross-departmental coordination on implementation. Priorities should be placed on actions that support more than one community priority.

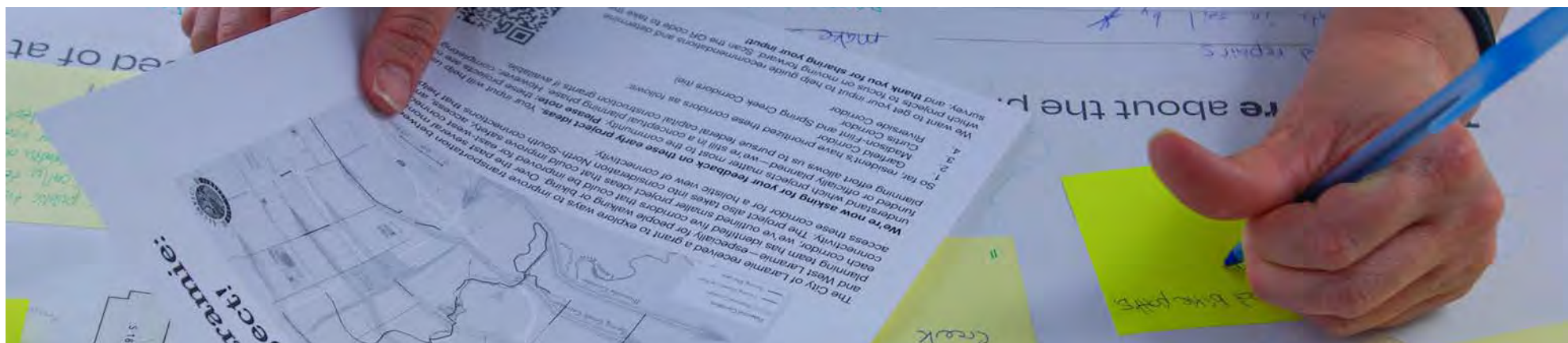
These actions are set out into two categories to help with prioritizing implementation and are described in the Action Plan that follows:

- **Tier 1 Actions:** These are actions that are most needed in the near-term to support the City's community priorities, with a focus on actions that support economic development and the development of new housing. They also include "low-hanging fruit" opportunities that can create momentum around implementation efforts. These actions are recommended for initiation over the next three to five years, as guided by future City Council Goals.
- **Tier 2 Actions:** These are future actions that can be undertaken once Tier 1 actions have been implemented.

Implementation is a process that has several important steps before an action is initiated:

- Defining the work plan
- Securing funding or other resources needed to support implementation
- Coordinating the work plan with partner agencies and organizations
- Identifying the timing of initiation

It is important to complete these steps prior to initiation to support efficient use of revenues and staff resources and to ensure a strategic approach to implementation. Following identification by the City Council to move forward with an action, these steps will be undertaken. As such, implementation requires preparatory time before initiation.



ACTION PLAN

TIER 1 ACTIONS

The following actions should be reviewed annually as part of City Council Goal development to identify appropriate new actions to undertake. Tier 1 actions are organized as follows:

For each action, *Lead Implementors* and *Partners* are identified to support coordinated implementation across City departments and alongside community partners and other public agencies. In addition, the City should look to leverage voluntary advisory boards during implementation efforts.

DEVELOP NEW AND UPDATE EXISTING MASTER PLANS

Description: To support implementation of the comprehensive plan, address current conditions, update existing public service and facilities action plans, and develop new plans for the City owned ranches, Laramie will undertake development of or updates to the following plans.

- Hart Ranch Master Plan
- Monolith Ranch Master Plan
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Water Management Plan
- Wastewater Feasibility Study and Plan
- Transportation Safety Action Plan

BIG MOVES

Lead Implementors: Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department,

Partners: Community and Economic Development Department, Albany County

UPDATE THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE

Description: The City will undertake a process to review and update the Unified Development Code to support new opportunities for housing and economic development. This includes:

- Evaluate zoning districts, permitted uses, and use specific standards to remove barriers and support economic and housing development that aligns with the Future Land Use and Character Framework.

BIG MOVES

- Audit the City's development review process to identify areas for improvement, including administrative review procedures. This can include an outline of application materials, steps in the review process with timeline estimates, and responsibilities of City agencies.
- es for addressing unsafe structures or those in need of repair, including health and safety risks, such as site contamination. Prepare a new medium-density residential zoning district that allows for missing middle housing types and places a cap on density (8-16 dwelling units/1 acre).
- Prepare a new neighborhood commercial zoning district that support smaller scale neighborhood serving uses and allows for live/work or other lighter density residential dwellings as part of commercial developments.
- Make land use permissions for ADUs, manufactured homes, and modular homes more permissive, and balance this allowance with use-specific design standards, as needed
- Evaluate and implement changes to the table of permitted uses to provide new opportunities for housing development that align with the Future Land Use and Character Framework guidance.
- Update land use permissions for health-supportive uses, such as childcare and healthcare facilities, to be more permissive.
- Incorporate spacing requirements for "sin" uses (such as vape shops and adult entertainment uses) to be applied in areas near schools, childcare facilities, faith-based establishments, and other uses.
- Incorporate Data Centers within the Permitted Use Table and apply conditions for development approval (see previous Future Land Use and Character Framework for guidance on objectives to be achieved).
- Clarify requirements for nonconforming land uses and structures.
 - *In reviewing zoning and development regulations for adaptive reuse, incorporate accessibility standards and provide design guidance and incentives to encourage accessible housing across unit types.*
- Evaluate and implement lot consolidation limits within zoning districts that apply in older, established neighborhoods to maintain lots for future housing development or redevelopment.
- Modify Evaluate and implement the dedication of "parklets" (small pocket parks) to be included in new or redeveloping neighborhoods or commercial developments.
- Evaluate and implement incentives for developing publicly accessible placemaking features as part of new commercial and mixed-use private developments, including plazas, courtyards, seating areas, and similar design features.
 - *Consider updating outdoor lighting standards to minimize light spillage by regulating lighting temperature, targeting, time controls, and maximum brightness.*

Lead Implementors: Community and Economic Development Department

Partners: Engineering Division, Parks and Recreation Department, development community stakeholders

DEVELOP AND PROVIDE PRE-APPROVED SITE PLANS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADUS)

Description: Prepare pre-approved site plans for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) that are made available for free or a small fee to residential property owners interested in developing ADUs. This can help homeowners offset housing costs with generation of rents and provides new housing opportunities within the city.

Lead Implementors: Community and Economic Development Department

Partners: Engineering Division

CREATE A NEW DEVELOPMENT SERVICES ADVOCATE POSITION

Description: Secure funding for, recruit, and hire a new development services advocate. The role would serve two purposes: (1) as an ombudsman to applicants and support them through the review process, and (2) to prepare a report annually that identifies barriers or challenges to supporting economic and housing development projects and recommends relevant changes to the development review process, procedures, and building reviews and inspections.

Lead Implementors: City Manager, Community and Economic Development Department

Partners: Engineering Division

IDENTIFY FUNDING SOURCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC AND HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Description: The City will explore and possibly implement a new revenue source to fund infrastructure needed to support economic and housing development in areas where the lack of utilities is a barrier to development. These investments should support development in alignment with the Future Land Use and Character Framework. This action also includes development of criteria to identify the priority areas that are in most need of these services to spur development activity.

Lead Implementors: City Manager, Accounting/Finance, Public Works Department

Partners: Development community stakeholders

CREATE AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON SAFE USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR ALL MODES OF TRAVEL

Description: Create a public service announcement or similar educational campaign that supports awareness of sharing public roads and rights-of-way with users of all modes of travel (walking/rolling, biking, taking transit, riding e-micromobility devices, and driving).

Lead Implementors: City Manager, Engineering Division, Streets Division

Partners: WY-DOT, Visit Laramie, Downtown Laramie Main Street, Police Department

SECURE FUNDING SOURCES TO SUPPORT REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING HOMES

Description: Collaborate with Albany County and housing partners to identify and secure funding sources (federal, state, other) to develop programs to support rehabilitation and maintenance of existing homes in Laramie. Programs should be designed to assist lower-income residents.

Lead Implementors: Community and Economic Development Department and Albany County Grants Office

Partners: Cheyenne Housing Authority (Laramie Office), Laramie Interfaith, Albany County Housing and Land Trust, Wyoming Community Development Authority

SECURE PROCESS AND FUNDING TO FILL GAPS IN AND MAINTAIN THE CITY'S MULTI-USE PATHS

Description: Identify and fill gaps in the City's multi-use path system, including the Greenbelt and Laramie Loop system, and seek active transportation grants to enhance connectivity and multi-modal use. Develop a plan and secure necessary funding for ongoing maintenance of these paths, such as for snow removal and resurfacing.

Lead Implementors: Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation Department

Partners: WY-DOT, Visit Laramie, Downtown Laramie Main Street, Police Department, Laramie Bikenet

Create Citywide Engagement Toolkit or Resource Guide for Efforts
Description: Prepare a citywide strategy for engaging in public engagement efforts and general community governance input opportunities.

Lead Implementors: City Manager, Planning Department

Partners: All City Departments

SMALLER LIFTS

MAP INFILL SITES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTE VIA CITY WEBSITE

Description: Using available GIS data, develop a dynamic, online map to be hosted on the City's GIS site that identifies infill development properties within the City. Promote this site through economic development partners and real estate/development organizations.

Lead Implementors: Community and Economic Development Department and Engineering Division

Partners: Wyoming Business Council, Laramie Chamber Business Alliance, Downtown Laramie

PREPARE “ROADMAPS” FOR PROSPECTIVE BUSINESSES TO ASSIST WITH LAND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Description: Prepare a page on the City's website that provides an interactive, easy to understand, step-by-step guide for prospective business owners that are looking to establish or expand a business in Laramie. An example of such a tool is the Colorado Springs, CO, Open for Business website (<https://cosopenforbiz.com/>) Promote this site through economic development partners.

Lead Implementors: Community and Economic Development Department

Partners: Wyoming Business Council, Laramie Chamber Business Alliance, Downtown Laramie

IMPROVE CITY CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL SYSTEM

Description: Evaluate the City's customer service communication system to identify regular challenges experienced by customers. This could include a survey or some other mode of collecting data. Develop a strategy to streamline and provide more efficient customer service communications and implement the strategy.

Lead Implementors: Information Technology, City Clerk

Partners: All City Departments

MAP CONSERVATION PRIORITIES IN LARAMIE AND ALBANY COUNTY

Description: Work with conservation partners to identify, map, and prioritize important natural resources, wildlife habitat corridors, riparian areas, viewsheds, prime agricultural lands, and other important natural lands in Laramie and within Albany County. This map can serve as the starting point for developing a coordinated plan to conserve the highest priority areas. Where adequate protection measures do not already exist, consider implementing plans, policies, and regulations to apply needed protections.

Lead Implementors: Planning Division

Partners: Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Pilot Hill Project, Laramie Rivers Conservation District, Albany County, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust, Albany County Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy

CREATE A SHARED USE AGREEMENT FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES WITH ALBANY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Description: Work with Albany County Schools to develop a shared use agreement for school fields, parks, and other facilities to augment existing facilities available to residents and visitors.

Lead Implementors: City Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

Partners: Albany County Schools

PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ON THE BENEFITS OF NATIVE AND XERIC LANDSCAPES

Description: Create a public education campaign to promote the benefits of native and xeric landscapes on private and public lands.

Lead Implementors: Public Works

Partners: University of Wyoming, Laramie Garden Club

TIER 2 ACTIONS

The following actions can be considered for implementation upon completion of initiating Tier 1 actions or as guided by City Council Goals. At that time, the specific parties to be involved with each action will be identified, including the department or community partner that will lead the effort and any supporting departments or partners.

ACTION

WORK AND PROSPER: WORKFORCE AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY (WLE)

WLE.1: Develop a marketing strategy for the region to support talent recruitment and retention, including features like local employer spotlights, a jobs board or talent-engagement portal, an ambassador program for new recruits, cost of living index, and quality of life benefits.

WLE.2: Explore incentives, like a relocation bonus, remote work stipend, housing assistance, or a forgivable loan program for students who remain in Laramie working in their respective field for a certain period of time after graduation.

WLE.3: Regularly convene and survey local employers and target industry leaders to identify their labor needs and minimum skill, qualification, and experience requirements.

WLE.4: Coordinate with local education and training institutions to create new programs, or expand or refine existing classes and curriculums, based on industry feedback. Focus on fields like the trades and healthcare support.

WLE.5: Work with area businesses and UW to strengthen student retention pipelines (internships, co-ops, and “stay interviews” with University of Wyoming students before graduation). Establish opportunities for more exposure to career pathways and direct hiring, such as apprenticeship programs, job shadowing, a mentorship program for job seekers by business leaders and retirees, and on-the-job training.

WLE.6: Work with housing builders to identify the most effective incentives or barriers to remove to expand early-career housing options (attainable rentals, room-mate-friendly units, employer-assisted housing)

WLE.7: In partnership with UW and the Chamber of Commerce, enhance social/professional networks for young professionals (peer groups, leadership programs, community integration).

WLE.8: Work with partners to create clearer post-graduation pathways by aligning local job opportunities with degree programs and improving visibility of those jobs.

WLE.9: Consider the development of an industry leadership network where businesses can identify common challenges, access resources that can help advance shared goals, learn from one another, and implement innovative solutions and best practices from other regions and industries.

WLE.10: Explore joint initiatives to reduce individual business costs, like transportation solutions, multiple employer health plans, and investments in shared childcare facilities.

WLE.11: Develop a business attraction and recruitment strategy for target industries that includes relevant City data and market reports, such as top industries, population and labor force statistics, available properties and shovel ready parcels, land and construction costs, taxes, permitting fees, development times, and testimonials from business leaders about the benefits of operating in Laramie.

WLE.12: Create business attraction and recruitment strategies in alignment with the Public Health goal, policies, and action of this Plan and the Work Well Wyoming resources from the Wyoming Department of Health, such as the Workplace Policy Toolkit. Support existing businesses in implementing the Workplace Policy Toolkit for prevention, safety, and well-being in the workplace.

WLE.13: Partner with economic development organizations and employers throughout the region to collaborate on a regional business retention strategy.

WLE.14: Partner with economic development, quality of life nonprofits, and tourism partners to coordinate a cohesive marketing campaign to a variety of audiences.

WLE.15: Support tourism-supporting businesses, such as hospitality, retail, dining, and lodging, through business development initiatives like mini-grants, tax incentives, and specialized job training and employment perks.

WLE.16: Enhance overall visitor experience through gateway and corridor improvements, walkability, and more complete digital infrastructure.

WLE.17: Increase special events that bring in additional visitors to the community.

WLE.18: Audit small business resources to identify service and resource gaps and promote existing support-ecosystem to local entrepreneurs and potential movers to Laramie.

WLE.19: Increase entrepreneurial education and training within K-12 and higher education curriculum.

WORK AND PROSPER: FISCAL HEALTH (FH)

FH.1: Strategically budget for new revenue sources, based on the priorities identified in this plan.

FH.2: Weigh benefits, need, and ability to use additional general purpose versus specific purpose tax revenue, based on the nature and scope of upcoming projects and community priorities.

FH.3: Evaluate current local user charges to determine where adjustments may be made to increase revenue potential while maintaining parity with other peer communities.

FH.4: Develop a priority list of projects that may require additional philanthropic funding.

FH.5: Identify funding partners including foundations and specific grant funding opportunities that may help the city reach its goals.

FH.6: Understand the current state lodging tax disbursement structure and opportunities to lobby for additional funding allocation.

FH.7: Develop a tourism expenditure capture strategy focused on increasing length of stay, visitor spending per trip, and reducing economic leakage.

FH.8: Enhance gateway, corridor, and wayfinding infrastructure to better direct visitors into downtown and commercial areas to increase local spending.

FH.9: Establish a data-driven approach to track visitor behavior, length of stay, and spending patterns to inform future investments and strategies.

WORK AND PROSPER: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT (GD)

GD.1: Prepare a West Laramie revitalization plan or conduct a focused study to identify and provide recommendations for needed infrastructure improvements such as streets, sewer, water, parks and public services, beautification, sidewalks and economics.

GD.2: Review the utility and service capacity in and around targeted redevelopment areas and upgrade facilities to support planned development intensities, as needed.

LIVE AND BELONG: HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOODS (HN)

HN.1: Identify and convene partners for an effective local housing organization/advisory board, for example, the Albany County Housing and Land Trust.

HN.2: Promote residential growth downtown through zoning and policy refinement and tools like the Laramie Main Street Low Interest Revolving Loan.

HN.3: Assess the current and future demand for housing for older adults aging in place, from nursing to assisted living, senior-communities, and high-end condos. Publish this information for use by developers and other implementation and funding partners.

HN.4: Establish and maintain relationships with builders and financial institutions to enable the development of affordable housing, such as through the creation of revolving funds, pre-construction loan funds, and other tools.

HN.5: Explore the viability of a HOME Investment Partnership Consortium with partners within and surrounding Laramie, including Albany County and nearby counties, to increase the amount of affordable housing available in Laramie.

HN.6: Evaluate the need for and feasibility of developing single-occupancy units, shelter beds, and transitional housing for vulnerable populations.

HN.7: Explore the creation of a financial resource program like first time homeownership, down payment, and closing cost assistance in partnership with local financial institutions.

HN.8: Promote the work of organizations providing educational and outreach materials to enhance access to existing income assistance and housing programs.

HN.9: Review the option of partnering with Albany County to establish a Homeownership Zone from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to reclaim vacant and blighted properties, increase homeownership, and promote economic revitalization.

HN.10: Coordinate with housing-focused organizations, social services institutions, Albany County Public Health, and other agencies to improve the quality and safety of rental units in alignment with community health efforts.

CONNECT AND NURTURE: PLACEMAKING (P)

P.1: Incorporate features such as shade, seating, and lighting in public spaces to encourage safe and comfortable use across all seasons.

P.2: Partner with local and regional organizations to promote alcohol-free events for community members of all ages.

P.3: Update city-owned, pedestrian-scale signage (such as interpretive signs and wayfinding signs) to improve legibility for visually-impaired users.

P.4: Create and support existing programs and enrichment activities designed to facilitate interactions between youth and older adults.

P.5: Allocate funding to incorporate art in high-visibility capital improvement projects, such as a new park or government facility.

P.6: Establish partnerships with local and regional artists and include these partners in conversations at the onset of designing new public facilities.

CONNECT AND NURTURE: TRANSPORTATION (T)

T.1: Continue to work with Albany County to implement the 10-Year Strategic Transportation Plan.

T.2: Improve east-west connectivity by implementing the strategies outlined in the Reconnect West Laramie transportation plan.

T.3: Explore potential revenue sources to secure committed funding for ongoing street improvement and maintenance. Dedicate staff time to research and apply for grant funding to support high-priority transportation network improvements.

T.4: Perform a condition inventory of bike lanes and trails to assess condition and maintenance requirements, and allocate funding to repair areas back to city standards, especially in areas with high pedestrian traffic.

T.5: Conduct an audit to identify intersections that would be good candidates for testing low-cost safety improvements (e.g., high-visibility crosswalks, improved signage, removing visual obstructions, signal timing adjustments, and other solutions) and install said improvements.

T.6: Where warranted through Engineering design, construct crosswalk improvements such as stripping, pedestrian countdown timers, and audible traffic signals, prioritizing improvements in high-traffic areas and areas of known conflict between vehicles and pedestrian.

T.7: Adopt a Vision Zero policy to prevent traffic fatalities and severe injuries, and promote safe and equitable mobility. Continue utilizing less costly tactical urbanism improvements, such as installation of bollards and painting pedestrian/bike facilities, to support these efforts.

T.8: Adopt a complete streets policy that speaks to the City's role in planning, designing, and building streets that enable safe access and movement for all users.

T.9: Periodically hold pedestrian safety symposiums to include City staff, emergency service providers, elected officials, residents, and others interested in pedestrian safety.

T.10: Work with the Laramie Regional Airport Joint Powers Board to implement the 2025 Airport Master Plan. Work with the Board to identify any needed changes to the Unified Development Code to support airport economic development efforts.

T.11: Create a plan for installing accessibility improvements to the City's sidewalk network, which may be funded through Special Purpose Tax (i.e., "6th Penny") dollars.

T.12: Coordinate with WYDOT, Albany County, and private property owners in conducting a traffic engineering and design study along major thoroughfares to identify necessary and feasible improvements such as acceleration/deceleration lanes, turn lanes at major intersections, right-of-way property acquisition, and the effective use of medians.

T.13: Where practicable, coordinate major street improvements with the timing of development projects and consider contributing additional city funding for landscaping and other improvements that will improve the aesthetic of major streets.

T.14: Implement the Laramie Downtown Development Plan goal and associated actions to improve parking access, availability, and curbside management strategies.

T.15: Evaluate the need to regulate the use of e-bikes and e-scooters on City streets, multi-use paths, and other bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

T.16: Identify high traffic areas within the city for the installation of EV charging stations.

T.17: Allocate staff time to researching and recommending regulatory changes that support the implementation of new community-supported transportation technologies.

CONNECT AND NURTURE: PARKS AND RECREATION (PR)

PR.1: Evaluate use and capacity of regional recreation amenities. This will inform uses that may be able to be marketed and those that are close to capacity.

PR.2: Determine which regional amenities may be enhanced with scheduled connections to the City of Laramie. This may include van pooling or buses to regional destinations for residents.

PR.3: Identify connections from neighborhoods that can enhance access to regional and nearby amenities. Use enhanced signage and wayfinding to accomplish this objective.

PR.4: Coordinate marketing of recreation opportunities (such as through the creation of pamphlets, web resources, and social media posts that catalogue recreation options) between local and regional partners.

PR.5: Evaluate potential programmatic updates based on facility capability and community interests.

PR.6: Promote rentals for recreation opportunities. This may include mountain bike, ski, cross county ski, snowshoe, or climbing rentals. Coordinate rentals and classes across recreation providers, including the University of Wyoming.

PR.7: Continue to maintain and expand access to existing greenbelt trails and shared use paths as outlined in the Reconnect West Laramie Plan.

CONNECT AND NURTURE: PUBLIC HEALTH (PH)

PH.1: Establish a protocol for Environmental Health participation in development review.

PH.2: Conduct a regular meeting between Laramie leadership and Albany County Public Health to identify ways that Laramie can best support their community efforts, and vice versa.

PH.3: Create partnerships with organizations like the Eppson Center to achieve the healthy community vision, such as promoting age-inclusive spaces and reducing isolation in older population.

PH.4: Work with the Wyoming Business Council to implement the workplace resources for Laramie businesses from the Work Well Wyoming initiative from the Wyoming Department of Health. See also *Workforce and the Local Economy*.

PH.5: Consider proximity to sensitive receptors, such as hospitals and other health care facilities, schools, day cares, and other immobile populations, when reviewing new facilities and businesses handling hazardous waste.

PH.6: Conduct a health needs assessment for Laramie and connect to existing plans and processes, such as parks and recreation improvements.

PH.7: Identify grant funding opportunities to establish rotating services or mobile clinics to address health needs.

PH.8: Identify potential locations for a community Social/Health Services Center to be developed in the future.

PH.9: Work with the Albany County Public Health, with support from other County and State agencies, to gather community support and to obtain grants for a detox facility, which could delay the need for a new jail facility.

PH.10: Increase public awareness among property owners about how they can support accessibility on their adjacent sidewalks and driveways. Work with the LACD, Board of Health and other interagency partners to improve physical access for differently abled people of all ages.

PH.11: With Albany County Mental Health (Interagency) Board, explore and develop community integrative programs to address mental health needs.

PH.12: Conduct a community mental health awareness campaign by sharing available services through regional providers and Albany County Public Health.

PH.13: Host an annual health fair that brings mobile unit preventive and primary care health services to the Laramie community, either as a standalone event or in conjunction with other community-wide events.

PH.14: Create a partnership or establish a citizen science initiative with an organization like Purple Air to utilize low-cost air sensors to monitor air quality in Laramie facilities, parks, schools, and other key community locations. Create a publicly available map or dashboard with the air quality monitoring results to allow tracking over time.

PH.15: Support partnerships and investments that expand reliable, affordable high-speed internet access for community members, particularly in areas with limited service or barriers to digital access, to improve connections for telehealth, health information, social services, education, employment, and emergency communications.

PH.16: Expand substance-free and family-friendly placemaking activities, events, and gathering spaces that support local economic vitality while providing healthy, inclusive opportunities for recreation, social connection, arts, culture, and community life. See also Placemaking.

STEWARD AND CONSERVE: NATURAL RESOURCES (NR)

NR.1: Explore opportunities to provide “out of the box” planting designs for xeric gardeners that are pre-approved for compliance with the Unified Development Code.

NR.2: Review and update regulations related to development in and near the Casper Aquifer and Laramie River floodplain to ensure they align with recent studies and adequately protect the health and viability of these areas.

NR.3: Identify potential partners and establish relationships to support natural resource protection.

NR.4: Continue to implement the recommendations of the Casper Aquifer Protection Plan.

NR.5: Establish long-term maintenance plans for open space that detail what actions need to be taken for maintenance, who is responsible for accomplishing those actions, and how the maintenance is to be funded.

NR.6: Monitor use of existing natural assets and encroachment impacts from nearby development to determine if increased access is compromising the long-term health or viability of the assets.

STEWARD AND CONSERVE: HAZARD RESILIENCY (HR)

HR.1: Continue public education efforts related to the most likely hazards that could impact Laramie. Education should emphasize awareness and preparedness for residents of the community.

HR.2: Regularly review City standards for dust control on bare ground and construction sites to ensure they align with or exceed existing Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality requirements. This relies on groundcover plantings to reduce erosion and airborne dust particles.

HR.3: Work with the Albany County Emergency Management Department on the installation, testing, and maintenance of warning sirens.

HR.4: Where federal, state, or county funds are not available to accomplish mitigation actions, identify potential funding sources to enable continuing implementation of city-specific mitigation actions.

HR.5: Maintain regular contact with emergency response partners outside of emergency response events.

HR.6: Participate in tabletop and functional exercises as the opportunity arises to support hazard response preparedness.

HR.7: Ensure communication channels and equipment are functional and available for use in the event of a larger-scale incident.

HR.8: Monitor staffing and training of emergency responders. Identify evolving needs for staffing, training, and equipment, and determine the source for funds to meet these needs.

HR.9: Work with partners to monitor how changing climate impacts existing and potentially new hazards.

HR.10: Assess community resources to respond to a prolonged heat event, including locations to establish shelters and cooling centers, and agreements for use of the facilities with property owners. (Cooling centers may be established in the same fire department locations that have been identified for warming centers.)

SERVE AND COLLABORATE: PUBLIC SERVICES (PS)

PS.1: Implement a “Customer Journey Mapping” program to evaluate the full user experience across common interactions (e.g., permitting, complaints, service requests), identify friction points, and redesign processes from the resident’s perspective.

PS.2: Establish a real-time service feedback loop (e.g., post-interaction text/email surveys or QR codes) to capture immediate input on customer experience and allow for rapid response and continuous improvement.

PS.3: Working across city departments as relevant, develop and implement strategies to address perceived or real public service response shortfalls.

PS.4: Provide cross-training between departments and identify opportunities for collaboration and streamlining services.

PS.5: Create a Citywide “Service Excellence Standard” and training program that defines expectations for responsiveness, communication, and accountability across all departments, paired with internal recognition for high-performing staff and teams.

SERVE AND COLLABORATE: PUBLIC UTILITIES (PU)

See Tier 1 action to Develop New and Update Existing Master Plans

SERVE AND COLLABORATE: GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS (GC)

GC.1: Continue to work with the University of Wyoming on land disposal, transfer, and acquisition opportunities.

GC.2: Establish a formal process to monitor Comprehensive Plan implementation that outlines review frequency and includes updates to boards and commissions.

GC.3: Work with local service providers to catalog the full range of services provided by Laramie and Albany County providers.

GC.4: Identify opportunities and allocate funding for continuing education and training existing City employees on how to use new technology as it relates to their jobs.

GC.5: Create a civic engagement program to educate the community on the roles and responsibilities of each department, the powers of elected officials, and ways to participate in public processes.

GC.6: Conduct an audit of recent City-led engagement efforts to determine which public engagement approaches are most effective in Laramie.

GC.7: Continue to partner with local educational institutions to identify opportunities for mutually-beneficial student engagement in City planning efforts (such as through collegiate capstone projects).



MONITORING AND REPORTING

The comprehensive plan will guide City investments and initiatives for all departments and divisions that play a role in shaping the physical fabric of the community. To maintain a focus on implementation, the City will develop an approach to track implementation status for Tier 1 actions and report on the status every two years, or as requested, to the Planning Commission and City Council.

UPDATING AND AMENDING THE PLAN

Just as community conditions are not static, the plans that guide them should evolve to address new conditions and opportunities. Best practices suggest that the comprehensive plan should be updated on a 10-year cycle. However, changing conditions may warrant more frequent updates to provide clear direction.