

# Central Plains Area Plan

Draft -August-2011

## Introduction

This Area Plan is an update of the 2003 Central Plains Community Plan and is also incorporating portions of the C-470 Corridor Plan and the General Land Use Plan.

The previous Plan was developed in 2003 through a year long process involving area citizens, homeowner's associations, and applicable government agencies. The C-470 Corridor Plan was developed in 2001 in cooperation with the Jefferson Economic Council (JEC) to address the shortage of employment-generating land uses in the County.

This plan supersedes ~~these~~ the above mentioned plans and any previous plans covering this area, including the Golden-Ralston Plan.

## History

The Central Plains planning area consists of unincorporated portions of east central Jefferson County, located mostly between Clear Creek and West Jewell Avenue and surrounded by the incorporated cities of Golden, Wheat Ridge, and Lakewood. Settlement patterns reflect how the 1800s town of Golden and mid-1900s cities of Wheat Ridge and Lakewood expanded after World War II. The unincorporated communities of Applewood, Pleasant View, Wide Acres, and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, compose the majority of the planning area.

Golden, one of Colorado's earliest settlements, was a supply center for prospectors departing for the gold mining areas. Located strategically at the mouth of Clear Creek Canyon, it was founded in 1859 by W. A. H. Loveland, Charles C. Welch, and other entrepreneurs who took leading roles in Colorado transportation, mining, and town building. Golden is the seat of Jefferson County government and temporarily served as the territorial capital. By the 1870s, Golden was known as the "Lowell of Colorado," after Lowell, Massachusetts, a planned textile mill town, because of its manufacturing. Ore smelters, quarries and mines, brickyards, a paper mill, and Coors brewery took advantage of the city's railroads, water resources, and deposits of sand, clay, gravel, and minerals.

Irrigation, proximity to city markets, and access to rail transportation to and from mountain markets encouraged agriculture east of Golden. Fruit orchards, hay fields, and grain fields grew, watered by canals and ditches that diverted water from Clear Creek. On the south side of South Table Mountain, agricultural lands were platted in the early 1900s with the semi-rural subdivisions of Pleasant View and Wide Acres. After World War II, residential growth continued in these neighborhoods. After 1950, subdivisions of ranch style houses boomed in Applewood and on the north side of South Golden Road.

## **Applewood**

West 32nd Avenue started as a territorial road between Golden and Denver. Originally called Middle Golden Road, it was once lined with farms and orchards that reached north to the banks of Clear Creek. A few of these farmhouses remain along West 32nd Avenue. Little residential development occurred until after World War II, when several subdivisions were platted, such as Applewood, between West 32nd Avenue and the base of South Table Mountain. Applewood contains several schools, churches, parks, Rolling Hills Country Club and Golf Course, and Applewood Golf Course.

## **Pleasant View**

Pleasant View was originally an agricultural area with irrigation ditches providing water for hay pastures, crops, and fruit trees. Its proximity to Golden and its location along South Golden Road and the Denver, Lakewood, & Golden/Denver & Intermountain (DL&G/D&I) streetcar line accelerated growth, as did the development of Camp George West that began in 1903. Built as a military training camp by the Colorado National Guard and named for a pioneer Golden citizen, Camp George West extended north from West 10th Avenue to include the southeast end of South Table Mountain. Buildings at Camp George West were designed by Albert Bryan and George H. Merchant, and several reflect rustic and craftsman style. The camp contains a large collection of Works Progress Administration (WPA) sponsored buildings.

South Golden Road is a historic transportation route, dating back to the 1859 territorial gold rush. The road divides Pleasant View into north and south sections and is lined with a combination of commercial, industrial, and residential properties. The Romano Family Residence on South Golden Road is on the Jefferson County Register of Historic Landmarks.

North Pleasant View experienced early agricultural use. The DL&G/D&I streetcar line was built in the vicinity of West 16th Avenue. Supposedly, one of the residences in this vicinity hosted meetings of the Ku Klux Klan during the 1920s, which met en masse on South Table Mountain. Quaker Street provided access to the mesa top for these nocturnal cross burning gatherings.

## **Wide Acres**

Wide Acres was platted by Charles E. Enos in 1921. One of Jefferson County's first planned subdivisions, the 40-acre development provided easements, setbacks, and review of architectural design. Wide Acres Orchard Addition was platted by William A. J. Bell, Jr., the son of a British railroad investor, who had been involved in the development of the towns of Manitou Springs and Durango, and the Scottish Highlands neighborhood in North Denver. Enos incorporated the Wide Acres Land Company and developed Wide Acres Orchard Addition #2 in 1927. Former Governor John Vivian, who served in office in the late 1940s, was a resident of the Wide Acres area. The Governor Vivian Mansion was added to the Jefferson County Register of Historic Landmarks in 2003, and nationally recognized as a historic site in 2005 by the National Society of Colonial Dames of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Daniels Gardens, a subdivision platted in the 1930s southwest of West Colfax Avenue and Simms Street, developed during the Great Depression and World War II. The former Daniels Gardens schoolhouse is now a City of Lakewood parks facility.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West

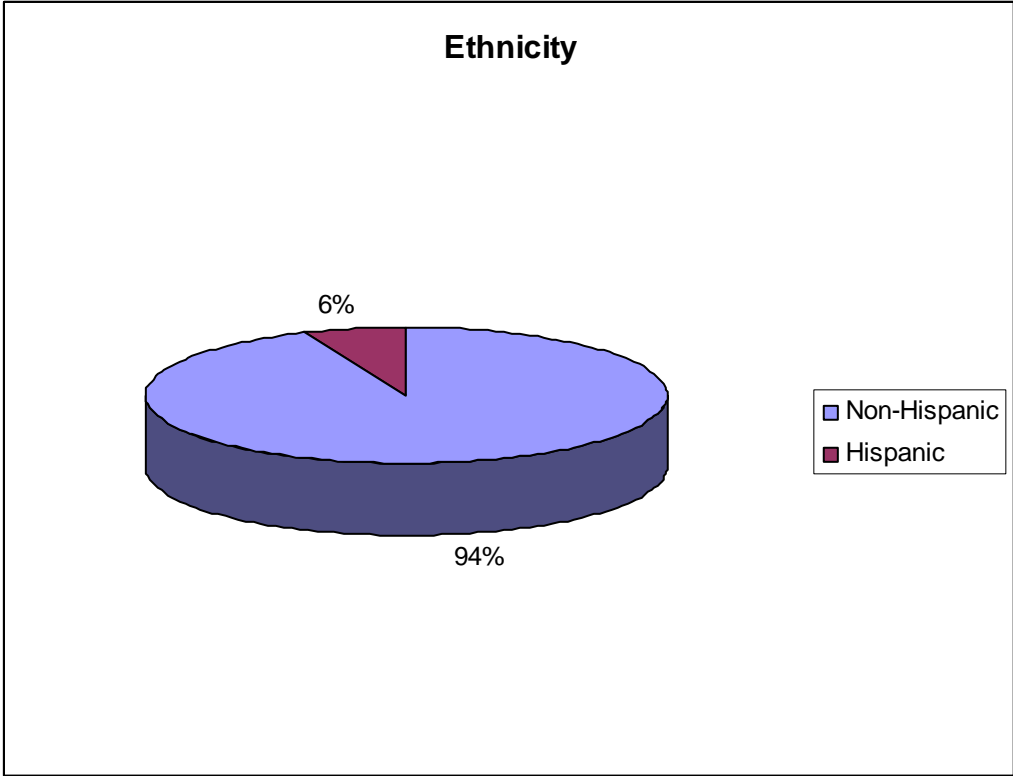
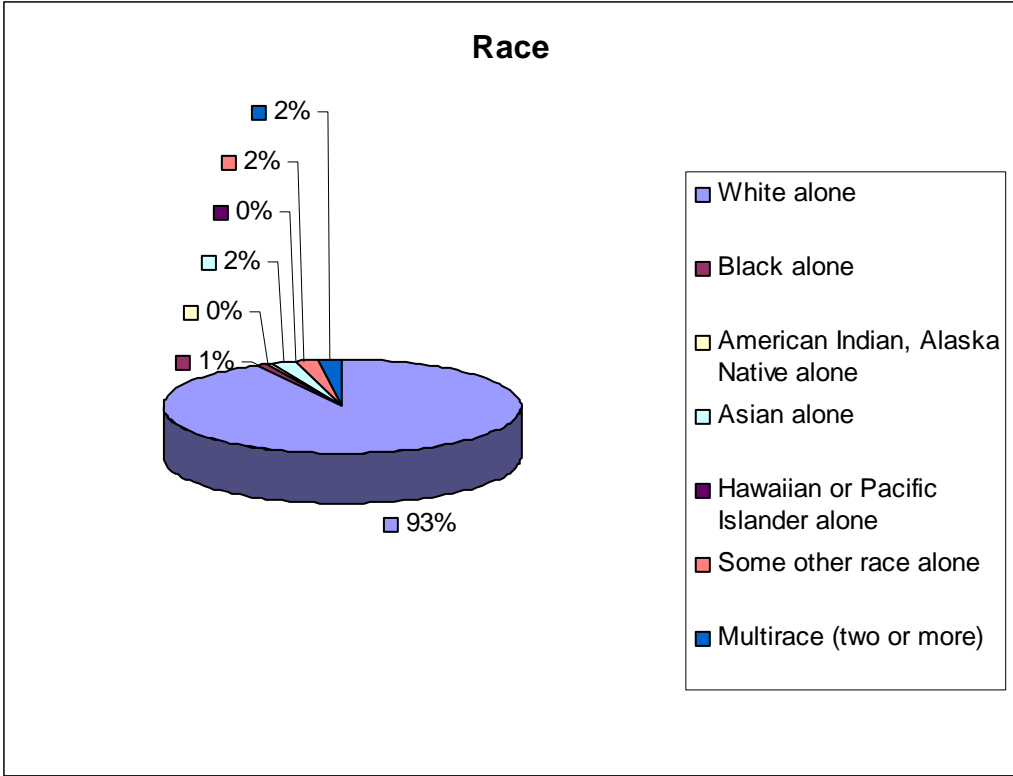
The 6th Avenue West and 6th Avenue West Estates subdivisions were the last large subdivisions to develop in the planning area. The 6th Avenue West subdivision was platted and built in the early 1970s, while 6th Avenue West Estates was platted and built in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

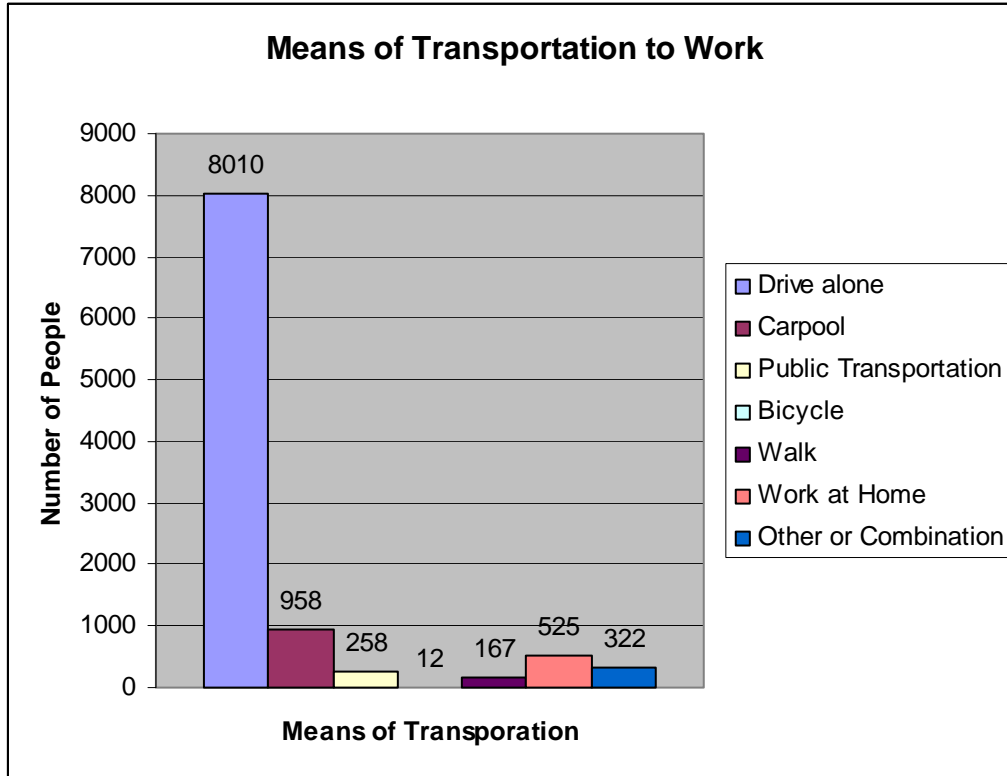
The Jefferson County Fairgrounds are also located in this area. Elsie Mead and Beatrice Lewis sold the fairgrounds property to the County in November 1951. On site is a 10,400 square foot exhibition hall, an indoor riding arena, three outdoor riding arenas and a large picnic area with pavilion. The Fairgrounds hosts over 500 events a year including trade shows, arts and crafts fairs, aeromodelers, ham radio, Colorado militaria and bridge clubs, car sales, dog shows, horse shows, National Western Events, 4H, and Westernaires. More than 400,000 people enjoyed activities at the fairgrounds in 2010.

## Demographics

General Information	
Total Population	19,181
Population in the Labor Force	15,403
Median Household Income	\$62,987
Average Household Size (Owner Occupied)	2.75 people
Average Household Size (Renter Occupied)	2.58 people
Percentage of Vacant Housing Units	5.9%
Median Home Value for Owner Occupied Housing Units	\$252,841
Population over 3 year Enrolled in School	4,839
Median Age	38.8 years

2005-2009 American Community Survey, US Census





## Land Use Recommendations

Specific land use recommendations are shown on the Plan Recommendations map. Some areas have additional policies that apply. Those policies are listed below.

### Community Use

Community uses are a necessary part of a neighborhood. They provide places for people to gather, socialize, and recreate. General policies regarding Community Uses are covered in the Comprehensive Master Plan. However, there are specific schools, cemeteries, and parks noted in this Area Plan.

### Area Specific Policies

#### *Area 1: Schools*

1. If Irwin Pre-school closes or if a portion of the property is disposed of, it should be redeveloped with residential uses with a density up to 3 du/ac.

#### *Area 2: Cemetery*

These areas should remain a cemetery (burial ground).

#### *Area 3: Existing Conservation Easement*

The existing conservation easements should remain in place.

#### *Area 4: Existing Open Space, Park, or Recreation Facility*

These areas should be left in their natural form or provide passive or active recreational opportunities for people.

*Area 5: Proposed Open Space and Parks*

1. The slopes and top of South Table Mountain should be preserved as open space and left in its natural form.
2. The property between Orchard Road and Meadow Sweet Road, south of West Colfax Avenue, should be developed as a passive park. *If desired by the property owner and neighborhood, a community garden may be considered in this area.*

**Residential Uses**

A variety of housing types currently exist in the Central Plains Area. This mix of housing is necessary to ensure economic and social diversity in the County. New housing or redevelopment of existing housing types should be compatible with surrounding land uses.

<b>Residential Build Out Analysis</b>	
Existing Number of Dwelling Units	Number of Dwelling Units per Plan Buildout
7,625	8,900

**General Polices**

1. The recommended housing densities should not be construed as guarantees of the number of residential units that may be built upon a site, but as the maximum number of housing units that could be built upon a site. The actual number of units is determined by applying all applicable recommendations in this Plan, including the Design Guidelines.
2. Senior housing is noted as a possible land use in some areas, however, it may not be possible for the County to enforce the housing be only for seniors, therefore, the densities recommended are for both senior and non-restricted housing.
3. In Areas 7 and 8, setbacks and heights of proposed residential buildings should match the largest setbacks and shortest heights of the surrounding residential zone districts. If a reduction in setbacks is proposed, there should be a reduction in building height. If an increase in height is proposed, there should be an increase in setbacks.
4. Domesticated Large Animal Management guidelines include:
  - a. Minimum lot size should be ½ acre if large animals are kept on the property.
  - b. The minimum square footage of open lot area, available to the animal, (including pens, shelters, barns, etc.) should be 9,000 square feet for the first animal and 6,000 square feet for each additional animal.
  - c. The total number of animals should not exceed 4 per 1 acre, except that offspring of animals on the property may be kept until weaned.
  - d. The outside storage of manure should comply with policies in the Housing, Water Resources, and Air, Light, Odor, & Noise chapters of the Comprehensive Master Plan.
  - e. Stallions and bulls should not permanently reside in these areas. They are more appropriate on larger agricultural properties.

## Area Specific Policies

*Area 7: Maximum density of 3 dwelling units per acre.*

1. Properties between Hawthorne Road and Youngfield Street, south of West Colfax Avenue, should remain residential.
2. Any potential future redeveloper of the private recreational facility on the northeast corner of Alkire Street and West 26th Avenue should collaborate with adjacent homeowner associations regarding future uses.

*Area 11: Maximum density of 10 dwelling units per acre.*

1. The property ~~ies on the northeast corner of near the intersection of Heritage Road and W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Ulysses Street and W. 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue~~ may be a good locations for senior housing.

*Area 14: Rural Residential*

These properties currently range from approximately ¼ acre to over 2 acres. Large domesticated animals, such as horses, currently reside on many of the properties. In these areas, rezoning to allow for horses or other livestock may be allowed if the Large Domesticated Animal Management Guidelines are followed.

1. If the Guidelines cannot be met, or if other residential uses are desired:
  - a. The properties in the Vernon Gardens area may develop at approximately 4.5 dwelling units per acre. If this density is developed, large domesticated animals should not be allowed.
2. The wildlife corridor along the floodplain in the Vernon Gardens area is encouraged to be left in a natural state, not channelized or piped, for the continued movement of wildlife.

## Transition Areas

There are several areas that have been identified as "Transition Areas". These are areas that are currently predominantly residential, but that may change to more intense residential uses, commercial uses, or industrial uses because of changes to the surrounding land uses and/or infrastructure. The transition of these areas should be sensitive to the existing single-family residential uses.

## Area Specific Policies

*Area 15: Office/Research & Development*

The residential area south of the National Renewable Energy Laboratories is surrounded by government facilities, industrial and other non-residential uses. With the expansion of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, the impacts to this residential area will increase. Recognition of these impacts underlies the recommendation that this area transition from residential to research and development.

1. Existing Residential uses are allowed to continue in this area. Additional units beyond what is allowed by zoning is discouraged.

2. Transition from residential to nonresidential use should occur along the periphery or when all property owners in the area agree with the change.

*Area 16: Residential and/or Home Office*

Single family residential uses at a density of 3 du/ac are the preferred use by the community on this property. However, given the frontage onto West Colfax Avenue, these properties may be appropriate for home office uses that extend beyond the Home Occupation allowances in the Zoning Resolution.

The intent of this recommendation is to allow for some expanded uses for these properties only. This should not be a precedent to the remainder of the community, as they do not have the same conditions as these properties. The home office use ~~must~~ **should** be conducted by the persons living on the property.

1. Home office uses should be limited to those allowed under the Home Occupation chapter of the Zoning Resolution, plus mail-order business, large day-care homes, and office uses, such as engineering, insurance, realty, accounting, and other similar professional office uses.
2. No retail sales should be allowed at the site, except through mail-order.
3. Medical or dental offices should not be allowed.
4. No outdoor storage is allowed.
5. Up to 3 employees beyond those living on the subject property are allowed.
6. The total area used for the home office may be up to 50% of the floor area per lot.
7. Traffic generated should be similar to that of residential development.
8. The building should maintain the appearance of a single-family residence.
9. Building height should not exceed 35 feet.
10. Signage and lighting should adhere to the residential standards in the Zoning Resolution.
11. Parking should be accommodated on-site and should not spill over into the residential neighborhood.

*Area 17: ~~Mixed Use~~ Colfax Avenue and Moss Street Transition Area*

With the extension of Moss Street to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Campus, there is the potential for this area to transition to non-residential uses. Limited Commercial may be appropriate directly adjacent to Moss Street and McIntyre Street. Office and Light Industrial uses may be appropriate toward I-70. However, single-family residential, multi-family, community uses, mixed use **development**, **mixed use buildings**, limited commercial, office, and light industrial may be considered in any portion of this transition area.

1. Heights of buildings adjacent to Moss Street may be increased to 45 feet. In other portions of this Area, non-residential buildings should be 35 ft., however, a non-residential building or portion of a building may increase to 45 feet if it is more than 100 feet from a residential or agriculturally zoned property.

2. ~~A sidewalk~~ Sidewalks should be provided along both sides of Moss Street and McIntyre Street.
3. ~~A bike lane~~ Bicycle accommodations should be provided along Moss Street.
4. Buildings should be oriented to the street. Parking lots should be located on the side or rear of buildings, where appropriate.
5. Landscaping between commercial and residential uses should at a minimum meet the Zoning Resolution requirements.
6. Adaptive reuse of historic homes (homes over 50 years old) is encouraged.
7. Front setbacks for non-residential structures along Moss Street may be reduced to 15 feet. This setback may be reduced further if an existing structure is being reused. Setbacks along side and rear may be altered from traditional Commercial-One (C-1) setbacks if buffer areas beyond the Zoning Resolution requirements are completed, by increasing the width of the landscape strip, increasing the number of trees and shrubs provided, or increasing/improving fencing.
8. Architecture should emphasize the primary building entrance and be designed to a pedestrian scale.
9. Drive thru lanes should not be located next to a residentially zoned lot. This does not apply where a collector road separates the commercial and residential use.

*Area 18: ~~Mixed Use I-70~~ and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transition Area*

The residential uses in this area may continue to exist and be expanded. However, this area has been or will be impacted by the Colorado Mills Mall and the West Corridor light rail line and may experience development pressure. This area may be well suited for affordable senior housing. A range of uses including single-family residential, multi-family, senior housing, community uses, mixed use development, mixed use buildings, limited commercial, office, and light industrial may be considered in any portion of this transition area.

1. West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Moss Street should be improved through this area to include cohesive street landscaping, sidewalks, and ~~a bike lane~~ bicycle accommodations to make pedestrian and bicycle movement safer in the area.
2. As development, redevelopment, or County capital improvement projects occur in the area, any necessary improvements to the floodplain and ditches channelizing the floodplain should be completed. Of special concern are the culverts in the vicinity of West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Loveland Street, and Kilmer Street.
3. Discourage the installation or use of outdoor speakers, amplified music, and/or paging systems or mitigate their effect where residential uses could be impacted. (This does not include drive-up menu speakers at fast food restaurants or teller speakers at banks.)
4. Heights of buildings adjacent to West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue may be increased to 45 feet. In other portions of this area, non-residential buildings should be 35 ft., however, a non-residential building or portion of a building may increase to 45 feet if it is more than 100 feet from a residential or agriculturally zoned property.

5. Buildings should be oriented to the street. Parking lots should be located on the side or rear of buildings, where appropriate.
6. Landscaping between commercial and residential uses should at a minimum meet the Zoning Resolution requirements.
7. Front setbacks for non-residential structures along West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue may be reduced to 15 feet. This setback may be reduced further if an existing structure is being reused. Setbacks along side and rear may be altered from traditional Commercial-One (C-1) setbacks if buffer areas beyond the Zoning Resolution requirements are completed, by increasing the width of the landscape strip, increasing the number of trees and shrubs provided, or increasing/improving fencing.
8. Architecture should emphasize the primary building entrance and be designed to a pedestrian scale.
9. Drive thru lanes should not be located next to a residentially zoned lot. This does not apply where a collector road separates the commercial and residential use.

*Area 19: Mixed Use*

The residential area north of 6th Avenue and between Eldridge Street and Indiana Street has been impacted by The Colorado Mills and the redevelopment of businesses along Indiana Street. Recognition of these impacts underlies the recommendation that this area transition from residential to mixed use [development](#). Senior Housing may be appropriate in this area.

1. Transition from residential uses to [the](#) mixed use [development](#) should start on the west side or when all property owners in the area agree with the change.
2. Existing residential uses should be allowed to continue until they agree to transition.
3. The residential area east of Eldridge Street should be buffered by a residential component of the mixed use development. This residential component should extend from Fig Street north of West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and should be east of the ridge identified on the map, south of West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Single-family residential should be located adjacent to the eastern boundary. Single-family residential or multi-family may be allowed further west.

**Mixed Use, Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Uses**

The Central Plains Area offers a variety of jobs and services, with many more opportunities located within adjacent cities. The unincorporated portions of the County should concentrate on creating and maintaining an appropriate jobs-housing balance.

<b>Non-Residential Buildout Analysis</b>		
Type of use	Existing Gross Leasable Area	Gross Leasable Area per Plan Buildout
Office	1,940,620 sq. ft.	4,690,000 sq. ft.
Commercial/Retail	985,820 sq. ft.	3,540,000 sq. ft.
Industrial	6,568,015 sq. ft.	7,820,000 sq. ft.
<b>Total:</b>	<b>9,494,455 sq. ft.</b>	<b>16,050,000 sq. ft.</b>

## General Policies

1. Encourage property owners to remove sign posts when no longer in use.
2. Articulate long building surfaces and roofs with a change in surface material or plane, at a minimum, every 35 feet.
3. Encourage outdoor seating areas for employees and customers.

## Area Specific Policies

### *Area 20: Automotive*

Automotive associated uses, such as sale, storage, servicing, and repair of automobiles and recreational vehicles, should be located in this area. The intent of this recommendation is to provide a central automotive-oriented area while also allowing for neighborhood commercial, office, and light industrial uses.

### *Area 21: Industrial*

Heavy industrial uses should be limited to this area. The intent of this recommendation is to provide an area that allows for all industrial uses, including the processing, manufacturing, warehousing, and distribution of commodities.

### *Area 22: Mixed Use Development*

Neighborhood Commercial and multi-family residential should be encouraged to locate in these areas. The intent of this recommendation is to provide an area that allows for different types of land uses that are planned as a unified complementary whole and are functionally integrated, featuring shared vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian access and parking areas. **Mixed use buildings are permitted, but not required, in these areas.**

### *Area 23: Government Facility*

~~1. The National Renewable Energy Laboratories and the Department of Energy should be allowed to continue their mission of research, development, and technology transfer of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.~~

~~2. If any Camp George West property redevelops, future land uses should be Research and Development to provide an area for research, technology transfer, and collaboration with private industry. Historic structures on the south side of South Golden Road should be evaluated for adaptive reuse with some community uses, such as museums or cultural centers.~~

### ~~*Area 25: Research and Development*~~

~~The intent of this recommendation is to provide an area to meet the needs of industries that would support research, technology transfer, and collaboration with the National Renewable Energy Laboratories.~~

### ~~*Area 329: South Golden Road Corridor*~~

The South Golden Road Corridor should be a place that provides services and employment for residents and supports research and development industries, especially renewable energy research and development. To accomplish this, the recommended uses on the South Golden Road Corridor map should be followed.

1. An implementation plan should be created to address the revitalization of the unincorporated portion of South Golden Road. Any planning efforts should include the City of Golden and Pleasant View Metropolitan District.

~~2. The County should conduct a safety and operational study for South Golden Road. All property owners along South Golden Road should be involved.~~

2. If any Camp George West property redevelops, future land uses should be Research and Development to provide an area for research, technology transfer, and collaboration with private industry. Historic structures on the south side of South Golden Road should be evaluated for adaptive reuse with some community uses, such as museums or cultural centers.

3. Road improvements to South Golden Road should follow the template developed in the South Golden Road Corridor Study by the Jefferson County Division of ~~Highways and~~ Transportation and Engineering. This template ~~was created to accommodate~~ balances projected traffic volumes, ~~with the need to accommodate~~ bicycles, pedestrians, ~~equestrians,~~ and ~~to~~ minimize the impacts on residents and businesses.

4. A template for landscaping and street lighting along the South Golden Road Corridor should be created to improve the appearance of the corridor.

5. Encourage sidewalks on both sides of South Golden Road. The preference would be for 8-foot wide detached sidewalks, however, site constraints may not make this possible in all areas.

6. Traffic calming measures should be explored on South Golden Road.

7. Encourage murals on buildings along South Golden Road.

8. Encourage ~~planters~~ landscaping to break up stretches of asphalt.

*Area 3330: C-470/Alameda Activity Center*

The construction of the interchange at C-470 and West Alameda Parkway and recent rezoning cases have made the land surrounding the interchange prime for higher intensity uses. This area should allow for retail, office, light industrial, and multi-family residential uses. See the C-470 & Alameda Activity center map for specific recommendations.

1. Land uses that create primary jobs are highly desired in this Activity Center. All retail on all four quadrants is not desired. Any new rezoning in this area should allow ~~include provisions for~~ office and light industrial uses ~~areas~~.

2. No single quadrant should be developed solely as a multi-family development(s). No more than 19 acres in the entire Activity Center should be multi-family.

3. A portion of the northeast quadrant, as shown on the Activity Center map, should also allow warehousing, including mini-warehouses, with the following exceptions:

a. No live animals, commercial explosives, or above ground bulk storage or flammable liquids or gases may be included.

- b. Sales, warehousing, storage, collection, or accumulation of junk, including machinery or vehicles not in operating condition, may be permitted only if contained within a building.
4. The Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center should be allowed to continue to operate in this Activity Center. If the visitor center expands or relocates to a different property within this Activity Center, it should be considered a recommended use by the plan.
5. If the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center remains at its current location, it should be integrated into new development. This may be accomplished through such things as shared access, parking, and pedestrian connections.
6. Pedestrian connections should be provided within and between developments within each quadrant.
7. Sidewalks/paths should connect with existing or planned streets and trails.
8. Sidewalks/paths should be planned to connect with abutting properties.
9. Sidewalks should connect to controlled intersections with pedestrian crossings.
10. Pedestrian and bicycle paths and facilities should be safely lit.
11. Bicycle storage facilities are encouraged.
12. Outdoor seating areas, plazas, and/or other outdoor gathering places are encouraged to facilitate pedestrian activity.
13. Major drainageways should be evaluated for pedestrian connections, where possible.
14. New development in the southwest quadrant should complement the character of the existing historic structures on the Rooney Ranch Centennial Farm. This may be accomplished through earth-toned colors, stone or other natural materials as accents, and sloping rooflines.
15. Building heights west of C-470 should not exceed 35 feet for flat roofs or 40 feet for pitched roofs, unless a Visual Analysis is completed.

### **Land Use Implementation**

1. To encourage the recommended uses in Transition Areas and along the South Golden Road Corridor, the County may need to use proactive strategies, such as:
  - a. County-initiated rezoning of existing and underutilized properties;
  - b. Pursuing economic development tools and incentives. (See Appendix B, II.c.)
  - c. Identifying business sectors most likely to locate in this area through detailed market studies by the Jefferson Economic Council (JEC) and others.
  - d. Targeting future public improvements toward these areas. These could include providing additional bicycle and pedestrian connections, creating pedestrian refuges to create more security for intersection crossings, considering "stoplight countdown timers" where appropriate, painting or raising crosswalks, widening sidewalks or landscape areas along right-of-ways, and requiring or targeting outdoor furniture towards pedestrian areas.
  - e. Considering strategies through zoning to attract desirable development. These strategies include:

- 1) Creating mixed-use zone districts to expedite and provide flexibility in development;
- 2) Allowing reduced parking requirements to allow more commercial square footage, and encourage walking and biking. If parking is reduced, safeguards should be taken that it does not spill into adjacent neighborhoods and streets.
- 3) Allowing higher building heights and densities if multifamily residential is constructed above commercial.
- 4) Reducing setbacks, instead considering "build to lines" near the sidewalk.

## **Open Space, Parks, & Recreation**

The area's recreational opportunities are a significant facet of the public's health and quality of life. South Table Mountain's natural beauty is highly valued by the area's residents. Although some of South Table Mountain is privately owned, hiking, exploring, and appreciating the mesa's natural and unique topography are enjoyed by the community on publicly owned portions of the mountain.

The Open Space and Trails Map shows many of the area's trails, parks, open space, and recreational facilities in the Central Plains planning area. The map is not all-inclusive.

### **Policies**

1. The property between Orchard Road and Meadow Sweet Road, south of West Colfax Avenue, should be developed as a passive park. A long-term maintenance plan for the park should also be developed.
2. The slopes and top of South Table Mountain should be preserved as open space.
3. Jefferson County Open Space considers the acquisition of South Table Mountain a high priority and should continue to pursue acquisition.
4. The County should evaluate the construction of a multi-use trail from Isabell Street to Denver West Parkway.
5. If possible, additional acreage should be added to the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center for future expansion. If additional acreage is not available, the County should consider leasing different property in the area to the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center.
6. Support the trail connections and property acquisitions outlined in the local park and recreation district master plans. Some of those trail connections include:
  - a. A north-south connection along McIntyre Street to connect to the existing Clear Creek Trail;
  - b. Continuation of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue multi-use trail west into Golden;
  - c. North-south connections along existing irrigation ditches;
  - d. Connections to North and South Table Mountain Parks; and
  - e. A connection along Welch Ditch from West 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the Denver West Office Park.

## Visual Resources

The Mountain Backdrop/Foreground is a significant visual resource in the Central Plains area. The preservation of the Mountain Backdrop has been a coordinated effort among five counties, from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, since 1995. The preservation of the foothills' visual features, including the slopes and top of South Table Mountain is a priority.

### Policies

1. If acquisition is not possible, and the mesa is built out to existing zoning, mitigation and sensitivity should be exercised to minimize the development's adverse impacts on the community. Building materials and colors should complement the natural landscape. Buildings should be located to avoid a silhouette on top of the ridge. *(See the Appendix for a map of existing zoning on South Table Mountain.)*
2. Protect the views to Lookout Mountain from Blue Star Memorial Park on West Colfax Avenue.
3. Protect the views to Main Reservoir from the existing residences in the Lochwood subdivision.

## Traffic & Transportation

A safe and efficient transportation system, with minimal impacts on the community, is important to the residents in the area. The County is in a limited position with regard to mitigating impacts from I-70, US 6, and US 40 (West Colfax Avenue) because these facilities are not owned or maintained by the County. However, balancing the demands of through traffic and local traffic to preserve the quality of life for area residents is important.

### Safety Improvement Policies

1. If sidewalks are desired by the community, residents should petition the County and work with County staff to develop a sidewalk plan that provides safe pedestrian circulation.
2. The County should work with the Regional Transportation District (RTD) to develop a program/contract to install and maintain bus shelters along South Golden Road.
3. The County should continue to monitor traffic in Wide Acres/Welchster to determine the impact of traffic from the Colorado Mills Mall on the neighborhood.
4. The County should encourage property owners and business operators along South Golden Road, Youngfield Street, Indiana Street, and West Colfax Avenue to route delivery traffic on these roadways.

5. Existing traffic calming measures along Eldridge Street from 20<sup>th</sup> to 32<sup>nd</sup> should be evaluated and further ~~enhanced~~ ~~modified~~ if needed.

### **Transportation System Improvement Policies**

1. If Youngfield Street is improved or widened:

- a. Resident and business operator concerns should be considered;
- b. The City of Lakewood's road template for Youngfield Street from 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue should be followed; and
- c. The County should coordinate with Lakewood and/or Wheat Ridge to ensure consistent site design, ~~and~~ landscape improvements, ~~and~~ pedestrian/bicycle improvements through this corridor. Complete Streets principles should be considered with any design.

2. The County should work with the City of Wheat Ridge when improvements are made to the I-70 and W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue/Youngfield Street interchange to ensure that pedestrian and bicycle improvements are appropriately connected to the W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue trail.

3. The County should continue to pursue new regional funding for necessary improvements to the I-70/US 6 interchange.

4. The County should coordinate with the City of Lakewood on transportation issues in the Applewood, Daniels-Welchester, and Lochwood areas.

5. The County should evaluate motorized and non-motorized access to the West Line Light Rail stations to determine whether roads, bike lanes, trails, or sidewalks, should be enhanced to provide better access to the stations.

6. Analyze West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue for bi-directional traffic.

7. Along collector and arterial streets, a 6 to 8 foot wide sidewalk is recommended, which would allow for two people to comfortably walk abreast.

### **Public Facilities, Services, & Utilities**

Adequate service provision is important to maintaining the quality of life in the Central Plains area. Although Jefferson County does not provide utilities, or fire protection, coordinating with the service providers is necessary to ensure provision of services.

### **Policyies**

1. All applications for development on or adjacent to South Table Mountain should be referred to the Colorado State Forest Service and local fire protection agency for identification of appropriate mitigation measures.

## Appendix

### Affordable Housing

- ~~Insert updated map showing low to moderate income areas.~~

### South Table Mountain Zoning

