

2014  
-  
2019

COLORADO DISASTER RECOVERY  
**RESILIENCE  
PLANNING  
PROGRAM**

5

PROJECT  
CATEGORIES

90

OVERALL  
PROJECTS

\$15.8M

INVESTED IN  
COLORADO



**RESILIENCY** is the ability of communities to rebound, positively adapt to, or thrive amidst changing conditions or challenges, including human-caused and natural disasters, and to maintain quality of life, healthy growth, durable systems, economic vitality, and conservation of resources for present and future generations.

*Colorado House Bill 18-1394*

## PROJECT ORIGINS

The wildfires and floods of 2012 and 2013 severely impacted Colorado communities including damage to an estimated 19,000 homes with approximately 1,500 homes completely destroyed. In addition, over 500 businesses were either directly damaged or suffered business interruption due to major road closures. Local community resources were also stretched as local infrastructure damages exceeded \$2 billion with many communities lacking the staff and resources to manage the scale of rebuilding required following these disasters. .

In the wake of these disasters, Colorado recognized the opportunity for communities to avoid simply replacing what was lost, and instead, look for opportunities to build back stronger and more resilient. The Colorado Department of Local Affairs established the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Resilience Planning Program to complete the expenditure of nearly \$16,000,000 in federal disaster recovery funds. Ninety community projects (some still in progress) will be completed program-wide by communities, watershed coalitions, and counties impacted by the declared disasters.

## RESILIENCE PLANNING

Resilience Planning projects were completed across five broad project categories, including developing community planning resources and specialized planning projects, that helped inform the redesign and reconstruction by the Watershed Resilience Pilot Program of a substantial amount of creeks and rivers affected by the 2013 floods.

### project categories 5

Community Planning Resources

Comprehensive Master Planning

River and Creek Planning

Specialized Planning

Building Community Resilience Capacity

Resilience Planning Program Breakdown		
Project Category	Number of Projects	Funding
Community Planning Resources	12	\$2,601,456
Comprehensive Master Planning	4	\$558,915
River and Creek Planning	25	\$5,427,592
Specialized Planning	23	\$3,440,821
Building Community Resilience Capacity	26	\$3,834,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>\$15,862,824</b>

The Resilience Planning program prioritized these five objectives/goals to respond to community needs and to maximize the impact of CDBG-DR funds. First, the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) decided to prioritize the development of planning resources that could be used by other communities. Comprehensive plans were funded to help hazard-prone communities lay the groundwork for a more resilient recovery and future development. The program also prioritized planning for a more resilient restoration of rivers and creeks, and for building capacity in communities to support an equitable recovery. Finally, DOLA funded many specialized planning projects to meet the more nuanced planning needs of each community.

Program Expenditures by Area		
County	Number of Projects	Funding
Boulder	51	\$6,826,329
Larimer	15	\$3,719,789
Weld	8	\$1,369,278
Other	6	\$1,631,425
Statewide	10	\$2,316,003
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>\$15,862,824</b>

*Note: to view the full version of projects and plans described in this report, please click on the project title/name of interest. Every project title is linked to its respective document or site.*

# Community Planning Resources

Resources  
Completed:

12

Funding:  
\$2,601,456

User-friendly planning resources were developed to support local governments, community residents, and stakeholders both in the disaster-declared counties and across Colorado. Highlights of projects funded in this category include:

## *Planning for Hazards: Land Use Solutions for Colorado*

Local governments need to prepare for and mitigate multiple hazards by integrating resilience and hazard mitigation principles into plans, codes, and standards related to land use and the built environment. The Planning for Hazards guide provides detailed information about how to assess a community's risk level to hazards and how to implement 28 land use planning tools and strategies.

Built from the award-winning guide, the [PlanningforHazards.com](http://PlanningforHazards.com) website features useful tools and resources, including:

### [Planning for Hazards Workbook](#)

This workbook developed to facilitate and implement land use strategies for reducing risk in communities. The workbook provides background information and tools to initiate and conduct a planning process that will integrate resilience and hazard mitigation principles into local plans and regulations.

### [Webinars, Hazard Mitigation Interviews, & Video Resources](#)

These resources cover a range of land use and hazard mitigation tools and topics and with local government case studies.



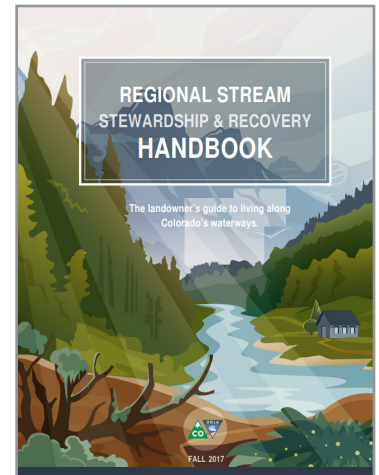
PLANNING FOR HAZARDS:  
Land Use Solutions for Colorado

# Community Planning Resources

continued

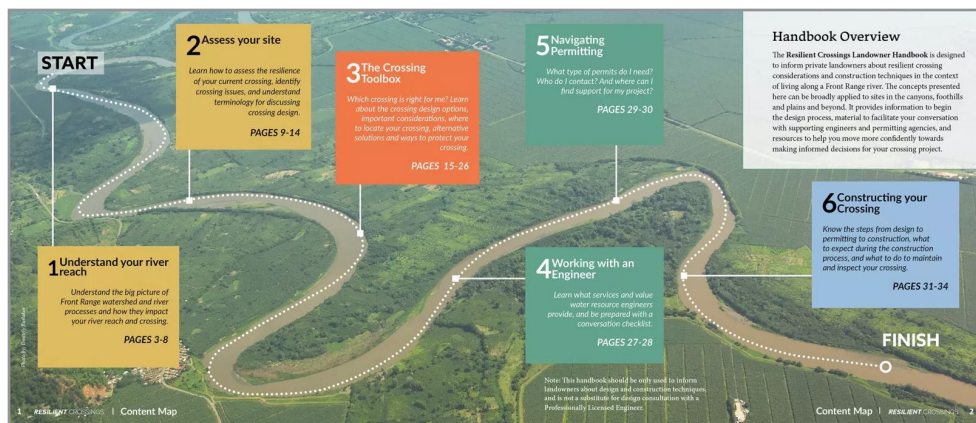
## Regional Stream Stewardship Recovery Handbook

This landowner's guide helps residents living in close proximity to creeks and rivers better understand the range of recovery, restoration, and mitigation alternatives for their property with a focus on overall watershed stewardship. A comprehensive adaptive management framework helps ensure that these projects move the entire watershed towards resilience.



## Resilient Crossings Landowner Handbook

This user-friendly culvert and crossings (small bridge) handbook demonstrates important resilient design and construction practices and techniques suitable for use by individual property owners.



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### Partner, Collaborate, and Cast a Wide Net for Stakeholder Input and Technical Expertise

Build a technical advisory committee with some combination of representatives from state and federal agencies, local and regional government entities, watershed coalitions, community stakeholders, and other subject-matter experts.

# Comprehensive Master Planning

Resources Completed:

4

Funding: \$558,915

The comprehensive plan expresses a community's overarching vision, goals, objectives, policies, and strategies for the future growth, development, and preservation of the community. Integrating hazard mitigation and risk reduction into comprehensive plans is a key approach that provides an overarching policy framework for vital planning efforts.

These plans integrated best practices for hazard mitigation planning and incorporated the principles and policies of sustainability and resilience into community planning.

## Larimer County Mountain Resilience Long Range Plan (2017)

This plan is the first phase of the new Larimer County Comprehensive Plan. It focuses on the opportunities, challenges, and unique character of the unincorporated mountainous areas of western Larimer County. Plan goals and policies aim to improve land use resiliency for future hazard events and accommodate the expected population growth and better mitigate increased social, economic, and environmental risks that the County faces. The Mountain Resilience Plan builds upon the 2016 Larimer Resiliency Framework that set the stage to organize County planning efforts along six resiliency frameworks.



## Plan Manitou: Manitou Springs Community Master Plan & Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017)

Plan Manitou includes a separate hazard mitigation plan to incorporate hazard goals, policies, actions and objectives in the comprehensive plan. The planning process integrated hazard findings to provide the community with an opportunity to craft goals and policies to reduce hazard risk while factoring in the full range of community resiliency goals.

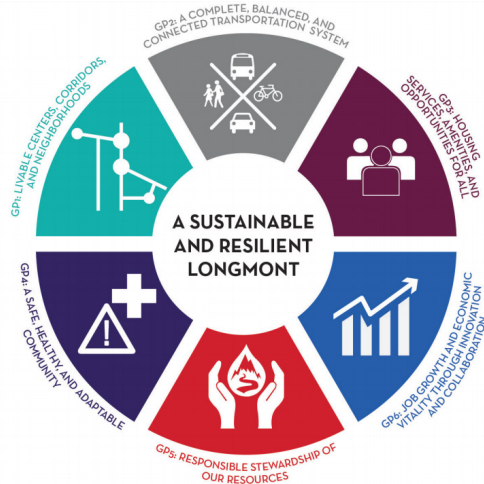


# Comprehensive Master Planning

continued

## Envision Longmont: Multimodal & Comprehensive Plan (2016)

This plan addresses the broader issue of resilience—which seeks to manage “disruptive” forms of change, such as disasters, climate change, and economic downturns, through mitigation and actions that anticipate and contain disruptive impacts—as part of the plan update. The [award-winning plan](#) is centered around six guiding principles and their supporting goals and policies are intended to promote a more sustainable and resilient Longmont.



Explore other approaches at [www.planningforhazards.com/comprehensive-plan](http://www.planningforhazards.com/comprehensive-plan)

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### Define Your Approach to Integrate Hazards in the Comprehensive Plan

Dedicate a Hazard Mitigation Element to focus on and emphasize the importance of hazard mitigation and avoidance; or

Address Hazard Mitigation throughout the Plan by tailoring the model goals, policies, and strategies throughout the plan to ensure hazard avoidance is considered everywhere it is appropriate.



# River and Creek Planning

Resources  
Completed:

25

Funding:  
\$5,427,592

Restoration planning efforts set up the successful implementation of construction and reconstruction efforts across all the disaster-affected watersheds. Planning highlights include:

## Reach-scale Planning

Reaches are smaller sections of the longer river or creek corridor. Reach planning occurred across the disaster-affected watersheds from Estes Park to the Big Thompson River, Cache la Poudre River, Fourmile Creek and the St. Vrain River. In these plans, specific corridor improvements are identified and proposed implementation costs are developed.



Completed Project  
Snapshot



[Big Thompson River](#)  
Corridor (Hwy. 34)  
planning between Estes  
Park and Loveland



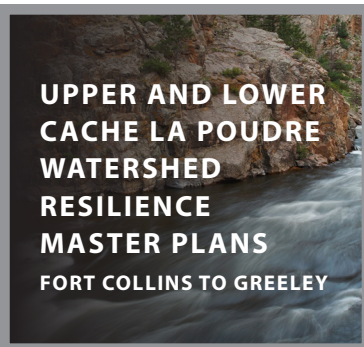


# River and Creek Planning

continued

## Watershed-scale Planning


Watershed planning efforts focus on large stretches of rivers and creeks, generally at least 10 miles in length and up to over 100 miles long. Often supported by specialized planning like sediment transport studies and stormwater plans, these watershed-scale plans set the framework for realistic long-term resilience efforts. Plans identify and prioritize unmet recovery/restoration needs, hazards, community requirements, recreation uses, transportation infrastructure, and outline opportunities to improve creek and river health. Examples include:



**UPPER AND LOWER  
CACHE LA POUFRE  
WATERSHED  
RESILIENCE  
MASTER PLANS**  
FORT COLLINS TO GREELEY

These plans were developed by the Coalition for Poudre River Watershed with the intent of improving long-term watershed resilience. The plans were used to identify target areas and determine priorities and actions within those areas that would increase watershed resilience, and to assess river dynamics and propose multi-objective and realistic restoration options around the river corridor.

This plan was initiated by the Fountain Creek Watershed Flood Control and Greenway District to identify strategies that will mitigate the effects of fire and flood damage in the watershed. The plan leveraged relationships between private land owners, the State of Colorado and federal partners including the Forest Service, Department of Defense (USFA), and the Bureau of Land Management.



**MONUMENT  
CREEK  
WATERSHED  
RESTORATION  
MASTER PLAN**

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### Holistic Planning Leads to Multi-Objective Solutions

Expand the outcomes of a plan to address a combination of benefits, such as: public and private infrastructure, stream restoration and natural design approaches, affordable housing, resident flood recovery, and floodplain management techniques.

# Specialized Planning

Resources Completed:

23

Funding: \$3,440,821

A wide range of specialized planning projects were undertaken by communities as part of the disaster recovery. From a climate change study for Boulder and Larimer Counties to a Resiliency Master Plan in Central City, communities prioritized recovery needs and completed planning work to support their recovery for generations to come.

Stormwater & Sediment Master Plans completed in

Estes Park

Jamestown

Evans

Cache La Poudre River

Lyons

Manitou Springs

identify and prioritize risks and problem areas, and provide riverine and stormwater quality and management strategies.

## Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA)

HIRA, an assessment for the Town of Lyons, was developed to best understand post-disaster areas of vulnerability to hazards and to identify and refine actions which can be taken to reduce the local risk from potential hazards. This HIRA is a unique best practice because it identifies a number of land use-specific actions and solutions in the [Mitigation Action Strategy](#).

## Creating Room for the River Plan

Creating Room for the River investigates the feasibility of creating a long-term flood-related mitigation program that builds on work started after the September 2013 flood by the Voluntary Property Acquisition Program. The program seeks to provide property owners with flood mitigation options that (1) promote habitat and ecosystem preservation, (2) improve water quality, and (3) reduce the need for rescue, relief, and recovery efforts following major flood events.

## Community Wildfire Protection Plan (Black Forest, El Paso County)

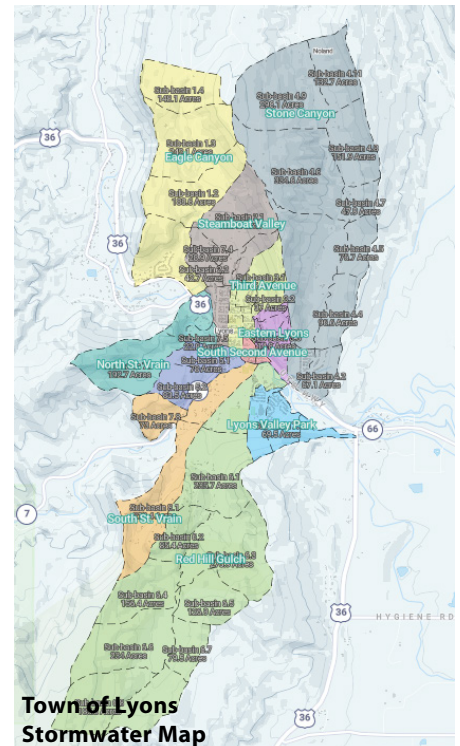
This strategic plan identifies specific wildland fire hazards and risks facing neighborhoods in each community, and provides recommendations designed to reduce those hazards and risks.

# Specialized Planning

continued

## Resilient Design Performance Standards for Infrastructure and Dependent Facilities

Developed by the Boulder County Collaborative, this plan guides the design and implementation of recovery projects in the region. These standards hope to leverage every capital project as an opportunity to incrementally move Boulder County toward a more resilient future.



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

**Break Away from Conventionalism – Use Recovery to Plan Creatively!**

Use the opportunity of a specialized plan to develop and implement planning best practices, and push your project and consultant team to think outside the box.

# Building Community Resilience Capacity

Resources  
Completed:

26

Funding:  
\$3,834,040

Program funds were used to increase resilience capacity in hard-hit areas through funding of local staff in affected communities or through community-building efforts. Building a web of community connections among individuals (esp. underserved or vulnerable populations), organizations and governments was an important goal of this funding. Projects fostered inclusivity and increased disaster resilience in participating communities.

## *Resiliency for All or Resiliencia para Todos (City of Longmont)*

This project identified barriers and created a bridge between the Latino population and local governments in the City of Longmont and Boulder County. The project developed recommendations that would foster more inclusion and create more formal representation from this underserved portion of the community. The barriers identified and explored through the project include:

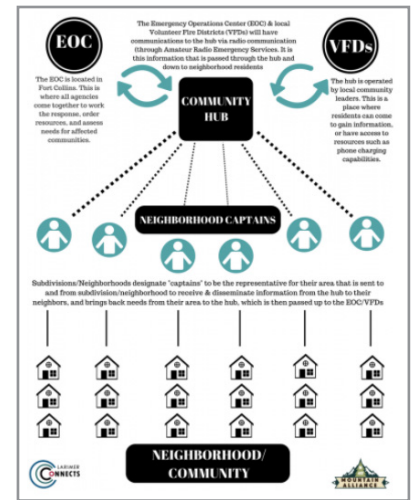
- |          |   |          |   |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Social Network Gaps</b><br>Lack of connection to resources for both family and community needs | <b>2</b> | <b>Media Communication</b><br>Lack of dissemination of information in multimedia channels   |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Language</b><br>Lack of Spanish language in all forms of communication                         | <b>4</b> | <b>Basic Needs</b><br>Lack of access for job opportunities, health issues, insurance, education, financial transactions, and general institutions |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Fear and Insecurity</b><br>Lack of safety and trust  | <b>6</b> | <b>Relationships</b><br>Lack of connections between community members and institutions  |

# Building Community Resilience Capacity

continued

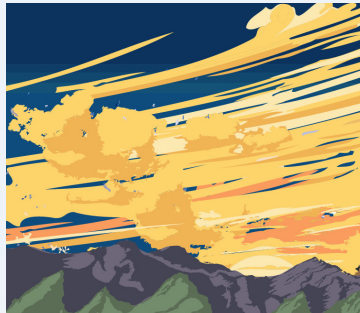
## Larimer Connects

Created in the wake of the disasters, this program was designed to build community connections – within communities and between communities – through coursework, networking, education, and outreach throughout all of Larimer County leading to a culture of community resilience at the most local level.



## BoCo Strong

This effort works to increase the web of connections among individuals, organizations and governments across Boulder County in ways that fostered inclusivity, increased disaster resilience, and built vibrant and prosperous communities.



### KEY TAKEAWAYS

#### Be Inclusive and Honest About Community Resilience Challenges

Develop and implement strategies to deliberately reach underserved and/or vulnerable residents.



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Community Development Block Grant -  
Disaster Recovery  
Resilience Planning Program



**COLORADO**  
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Division of Local Government



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