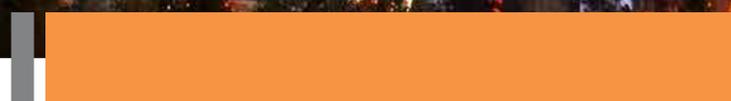
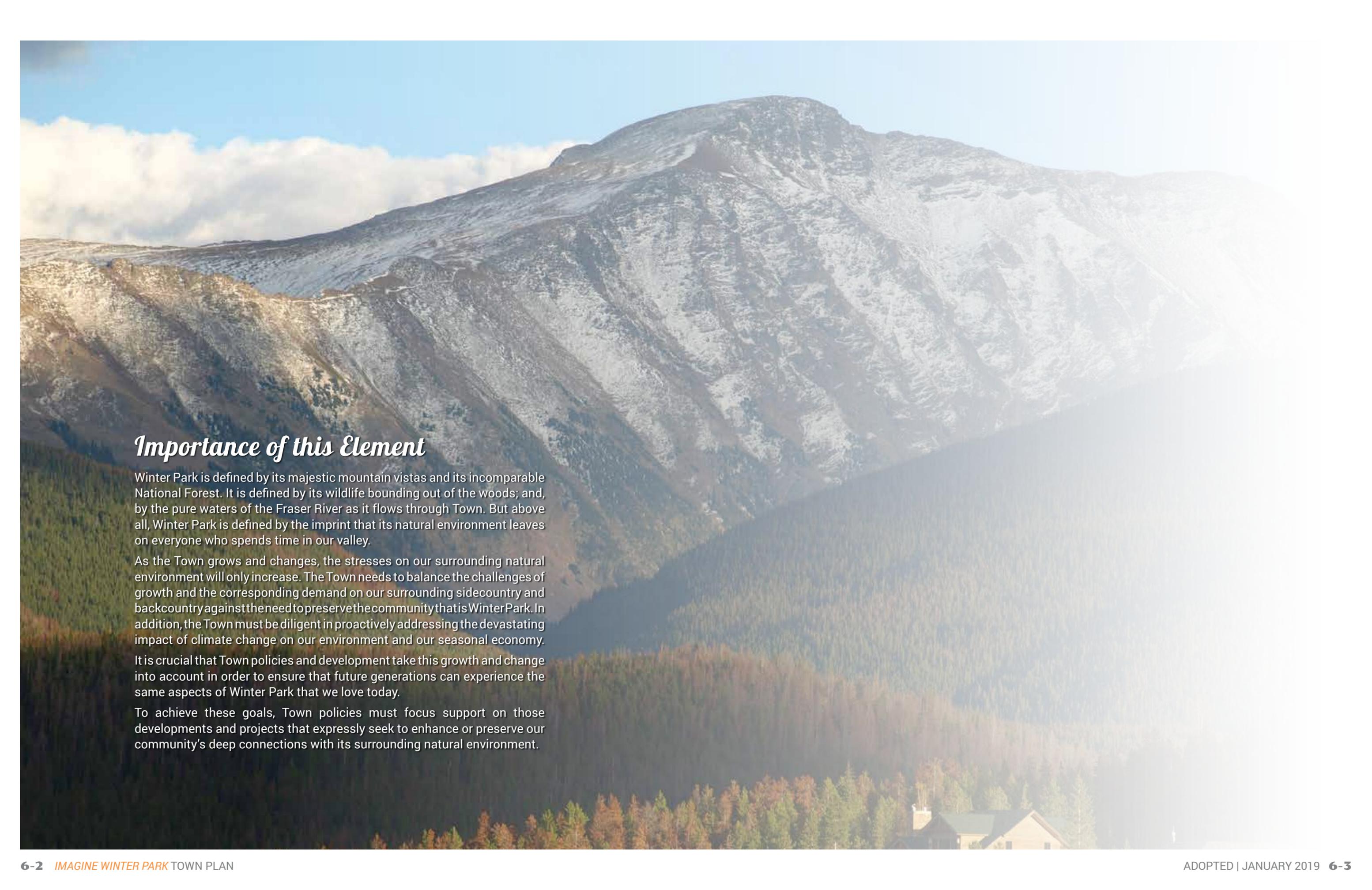




CHAPTER SIX

OUR HEALTHY AND THRIVING ENVIRONMENT





Importance of this Element

Winter Park is defined by its majestic mountain vistas and its incomparable National Forest. It is defined by its wildlife bounding out of the woods; and, by the pure waters of the Fraser River as it flows through Town. But above all, Winter Park is defined by the imprint that its natural environment leaves on everyone who spends time in our valley.

As the Town grows and changes, the stresses on our surrounding natural environment will only increase. The Town needs to balance the challenges of growth and the corresponding demand on our surrounding sidecountry and backcountry against the need to preserve the community that is Winter Park. In addition, the Town must be diligent in proactively addressing the devastating impact of climate change on our environment and our seasonal economy.

It is crucial that Town policies and development take this growth and change into account in order to ensure that future generations can experience the same aspects of Winter Park that we love today.

To achieve these goals, Town policies must focus support on those developments and projects that expressly seek to enhance or preserve our community's deep connections with its surrounding natural environment.

Our Healthy and Thriving Environment **FRAMEWORK MAP**



LEGEND

- TOWN BOUNDARY
- EXISTING TRAILS
- PROPOSED RIVER ACCESS POINTS
- WILDLIFE CORRIDORS
- ~ RIVER/ CREEKS
- ▽ EXISTING TRAILHEADS
- ⚡ PROPOSED RIVER WALK
- EXISTING COMMUNITY SERVICES
- USFS PROTECTED LANDS
- PROPOSED TRAILHEADS
- EXISTING PARKS/ OPEN SPACE
- PROPOSED COMMUNITY/ HEALTH SERVICES

Winter Park Resort Base & Old Town ENVIRONMENT FRAMEWORK MAP



LEGEND

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| TOWN BOUNDARY | EXISTING TRAILS | WILDLIFE CORRIDORS |
| RIVER/ CREEKS | EXISTING TRAILHEADS | |
| USFS PROTECTED LANDS | PROPOSED TRAILHEADS | |



*Our Healthy
and Thriving
Environment*

VISION

An outdoor community physically linked to a healthy and thriving natural and human environment.

PRINCIPLES

[A HEALTHY HEADWATERS COMMUNITY]

A conservation-oriented community that recognizes the role water plays in the natural environment and ability to grow in a responsible and sustainable way.

[OUR INCOMPARABLE NATIONAL FOREST]

A Town that embraces its connections to the surrounding forest environment and all the opportunities and challenges that come with it.

[LIVING WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT]

A leader among mountain towns in responsibly interacting with and utilizing its surrounding natural resources.

[SUSTAINABILITY]

A community that operates in ways that are good for people and the planet.

Water Conservation in the West

Supporting a growing population with limited water resources is one of the greatest challenges Colorado communities are facing. To incentivize water conservation in communities, utilities can enact multi-factor water connection charges. These use projected annual water demand as the basis for the charge. For example, a house with a large lawn could be charged more than one with a small lawn, an office building with little water use would pay less than a car wash despite requiring the same meter size, or a low water-intensive landscape would be assessed a smaller charge than a grass-covered landscape.

Fountain, Colorado is a community currently utilizing this fee structure, with water acquisition fees reduced by 50% for lots with 50% or less turf area, by about 70% for lots with 30% or less turf area, and smaller residential lots are assessed smaller charges. Put in place in June 2014, nearly 75% of the proposed new residential developments were making use of the incentive as of November 2014.

Source: <http://westernresourceadvocates.org/projects/water-connection-charges/>

1.

[A HEALTHY HEADWATERS COMMUNITY]

A CONSERVATION-ORIENTED COMMUNITY THAT RECOGNIZES THE ROLE WATER PLAYS IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND ABILITY TO GROW IN A RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE WAY.

Winter Park is a true “headwaters community.” As the Fraser River and Vasquez Creek flow through Town they provide an unprecedented natural backdrop, a vital wildlife habitat, and a crucial resource to support our residents and guests. Rivers are a natural draw, attracting people, wildlife, businesses, and recreation. Additionally, everything that we do has an impact on downstream (or cross-basin) users. As a “headwaters community”

our Town should set the highest standard for responsible water use. This means that the Town will establish policies that encourage open access to the Fraser River and other Town waterways while at the same time ensuring a resilient and healthy ecosystem. The Town’s development standards should act as an extension of these policies and encourage water conservation and efficiency in our built environment.

Strategies

EN STRATEGY 1.1: Protect and increase physical and visual access to waterways within and around the Town.

EN STRATEGY 1.2: Maintain healthy stream flows for ecological, recreational, and scenic purposes.

EN STRATEGY 1.3: Implement water conservation policies to combat a potential shortfall in stream flows.

EN STRATEGY 1.4: Strengthen the Fraser River and its associated floodplain as a recreational and economic amenity while preserving the riparian habitat.

EN STRATEGY 1.5: Protect the viability of natural wetlands and watercourses as a key component of our natural and built environments.

EN STRATEGY 1.6: Incorporate comprehensive stormwater systems that improve water quality and contribute to the ecological functioning of watersheds.

EN STRATEGY 1.7: Restore or enhance degraded or disturbed waterways to improve ecological conditions, aesthetics, and recreation.

EN STRATEGY 1.8: Extend trails and create additional linkages, as appropriate, to link to waterways such as the Fraser River.

EN STRATEGY 1.9: Promote public safety and protect Town waterways by implementing floodplain regulations.

EN STRATEGY 1.10: Continue active participation in the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement.



2.

[OUR INCOMPARABLE NATIONAL FOREST]

A TOWN THAT EMBRACES ITS CONNECTIONS TO THE SURROUNDING FOREST ENVIRONMENT AND ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES THAT COME WITH IT.

Pine Beetle Mitigation

Winter Park, with its location in the mountains and close proximity to Rocky Mountain National Park, is greatly affected by the pine beetle epidemic.

Key mitigation actions could include requiring residents to remove brood trees, or trees with an active bark beetle infestation; offering free inspections of properties located within town limits; and providing educational materials for landowners.

When people come to Winter Park, they come because of our incomparable National Forest. Whether it's skiing or snowboarding at our world class Winter Park Resort, biking on the seemingly limitless single-track trails, or simply pulling off of the side of the road to take a picture of the Continental Divide, the surrounding National Forest is the reason that we all come here.

As we move forward and grow, it is important that we not only preserve our relationships with our surrounding forests, but, that

we also work to enhance that relationship. Both residents and visitors should understand the role that the forests serve in providing vital wildlife habitat, exceptional recreational opportunities, and clean air and water for millions of people.

The community should protect wildlife, habitat, movement corridors, and scenic vistas. When development occurs it should be sized, located, and designed to avoid or limit impacts to wildlife and the natural environment.

Strategies

EN STRATEGY 2.1: Support forest biodiversity and control the invasion and spread of undesirable non-native plants, animals, and insects.

EN STRATEGY 2.2: Design trail routes to minimize ecological impacts while enhancing access and recreation.

EN STRATEGY 2.3: Protect the integrity of significant wildlife habitat and movement corridors.

EN STRATEGY 2.4: Foster alliances and partnerships with organizations that are working toward a healthy and thriving environment.

EN STRATEGY 2.5: Promote education and understanding of public lands through appropriate recreational activities, formal and non-formal education, and interpretive programs.

EN STRATEGY 2.6: Develop and implement a wildfire mitigation and prevention plan.

EN STRATEGY 2.7: Protect significant viewsheds to maintain our connection with the natural environment.



Land Conservation Challenges

Conversion of natural areas and farmland to developed property has resulted in increased habitat fragmentation, loss of biodiversity, disruption of natural landscape processes, degradation of water resources, increased flooding, non-point-source pollution, and growing public and private costs for servicing dispersed development. But the trend is reversing.

Over the four 5-year intervals between 1982 and 2002, the amount of developed land increased at nearly twice the rate of the population. From 2002 to 2007, it increased 44 percent faster than the population; then between 2007 and 2012 the trend reversed and population grew about 52 percent faster than the amount of developed land.

Source: EPA, *Urbanization and Population Change*.
https://cfpub.epa.gov/roe/indicator_pdf.cfm?i=52

3.

[LIVING WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT]

A LEADER AMONG MOUNTAIN TOWNS IN RESPONSIBLY INTERACTING WITH AND UTILIZING ITS SURROUNDING NATURAL RESOURCES.

Winter Park is located within a wild natural environment, which inherently creates conflict. Whether it is a bear rooting through your garbage or an increase in light pollution drowning out the night sky, growth in this natural environment will produce issues that require the application of clear and concise policies.

Appreciation and protection of this wild natural environment means implementing policies controlling the impacts that our actions have on the forest and wildlife, as well as sensibly preparing for the impacts they can have on us.

Strategies

EN STRATEGY 3.1: Encourage density in appropriate locations and clustering of development to maximize open space.

EN STRATEGY 3.2: Work with the Forest Service to formalize camping along Vasquez Road to protect Winter Park's water quality, outdoor experience, and the health and safety of wildlife, residents, and visitors.

EN STRATEGY 3.3: Work to become a Dark Sky Community.

EN STRATEGY 3.4: Proactively plan for disasters and implement mitigation and resilience measures to reduce community vulnerability (e.g. requiring firebreaks).

EN STRATEGY 3.5: Bears like trash, we make trash, don't be trashy (e.g. require animal-proof trash receptacles throughout Town).

EN STRATEGY 3.6: Identify and develop viable, sustainable strategies designed to divert an increasing portion of the community's waste stream from landfills with the eventual goal of being a zero waste community.

EN STRATEGY 3.7: Implement policies that reduce conflicts between wildlife and domesticated animals.

EN STRATEGY 3.8: Update landscape design guidelines to clearly address conflicts with the natural environment and wildlife.



4.

[SUSTAINABILITY]

A COMMUNITY THAT OPERATES IN WAYS THAT ARE GOOD FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET.

In order to provide the quality of life that residents and guests in Winter Park expect and desire, it is crucial that the Town create and maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that allow us to meet the social, economic, and environmental needs of both present and future generations.

This will mean reducing our environmental footprint by conserving energy and water, reducing waste, increasing recycling, and addressing climate change. Access to healthy food and adequate healthcare are just as important to the social and economic sustainability of the Town.

Strategies

EN STRATEGY 4.1: Collaborate with other organizations to develop local infrastructure that will accommodate recyclables, organics, and hazardous waste disposal.

EN STRATEGY 4.2: Commit to acting as a resource in assisting citizens to practice appropriate waste disposal and enforcing environmental regulations.

EN STRATEGY 4.3: Regularly update codes to include effective environmental and resource conservation provisions.

EN STRATEGY 4.4: Foster equitable access to healthcare facilities and services.

EN STRATEGY 4.5: Continue participation in the Compact of Colorado Communities and establish climate action initiatives and goals.

EN STRATEGY 4.6: Increase energy-efficiency, renewable energy, and carbon-neutral energy in Winter Park.

EN STRATEGY 4.7: Provide access to healthy food by promoting local food supply through farmers' markets and connections to local farming communities.

EN STRATEGY 4.8: Promote green building practices in new construction and existing buildings.

EN STRATEGY 4.9: Consider incentives to encourage new construction to substantially exceed minimum code requirements for energy efficiency and renewable energy use.

EN STRATEGY 4.10: Create a comprehensive sustainability plan.

