COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community resources refer to services and amenities provided to the Douglas County community. The services discussed in this section are special districts, educational facilities, emergency services, utilities, and waste disposal. (Transportation and water supply have their own sections in the Plan.) The amenities considered are libraries, cultural arts facilities, and cultural and historic resources. (Parks and trails are covered in the Parks, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.) The CMP expresses the community values regarding these resources through the following goals, objectives, and policies.

While most community resources are not provided by county government, this Plan encourages coordination between service providers and the County during development review to ensure services are provided in the right places and at the right time.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

GOAL 5-1

Ensure the provision of adequate community resources in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

OBJECTIVE 5-1A

Review existing and projected development to ensure that it does not overwhelm existing services.

POLICY 5-1A.1

Consider buildout rates, projected demand, and capacity when evaluating proposed development.

POLICY 5-1A.2

Coordinate service needs with relevant special districts, authorities, and municipalities.

Objective 5-1B

MAINTAIN A DEVELOPMENT PATTERN OF CONTIGUOUS AND LOGICAL EXTENSIONS OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

SECTION 5

POLICY 5-1B.1

Encourage new development to be contiguous to existing development and infrastructure.

POLICY 5-1B.2

Encourage multi-purpose use of public lands, facilities, or services to promote efficiencies.

EDUCATION

GOAL 5-2

PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES THAT SERVE THE COUNTY'S POPULATION.

Objective 5-2A

MAINTAIN A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.

POLICY 5-2A.1

Encourage cooperation between the municipalities and the County to ensure adequate school facilities.

POLICY 5-2A.2

Support the school district's ability to finance new schools as part of the development review process.

POLICY 5-2A.3

Support tax incentives or other benefits to create partnerships between businesses and educational institutions.

OBJECTIVE 5-2B

Schools should be safe, accessible, and prominent in the community.

POLICY 5-2B.1

Encourage multiple uses of public school facilities.

POLICY 5-2B.2

Encourage schools to locate adjacent to other community facilities to create neighborhood centers.

POLICY 5-2B.3

Ensure that schools are accessible to the community via a connected network of roads and trails.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

GOAL 5-3

PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS.

Objective 5-3A

Ensure special districts are financially sound.

POLICY 5-3A.1

Require a detailed, independent evaluation of all special district financing plans.

Objective 5-3B

Ensure district management is in the best interest of County residents.

POLICY 5-3B.1

Ensure district activities and operations are consistent with the service plan.

LIBRARIES

GOAL 5-4

Ensure library resources are available to all County residents.



OBJECTIVE 5-4A DEVELOP A COORDINATED APPROACH TO PROVIDE LIBRARY RESOURCES.

POLICY 5-4A.1

Cooperate with the Douglas County Libraries' Board of Trustees to mitigate growth-related impacts through planning, growth monitoring, and the land development review process.

OTHER UTILITIES

GOAL 5-5

MAINTAIN HIGH QUALITY STANDARDS IN PLANNING FOR UTILITY SITES.

Objective 5-5A Minimize impacts to the surrounding area.

POLICY 5-5A.1 Apply design standards to ensure compatibility.

POLICY 5-5A.2

Recognize the technological, operational, maintenance, and safety constraints of these uses while balancing community desires to mitigate impacts to the natural and built environment.

POLICY 5-5A.3

Encourage high tension power lines and electrical substations be located away from residential and visually significant areas, where feasible.

POLICY 5-5A.4

Encourage residential development to be placed away from high tension power lines and electrical substations.

POLICY 5-5A.5

Encourage the joint use of utility corridors for new or upgraded major transmission lines.

POLICY 5-5A.6

Provide adequate right-of-way or setbacks to dissipate electromagnetic fields and noise and to mitigate visual and other land use concerns.

Objective 5-5B

SITE TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES SO THEY WILL BE IN SCALE AND HARMONY WITH THE CHARACTER OF THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT.

POLICY 5-5B.1

When feasible, locate facilities on existing structures, e.g., buildings, communication towers, water towers, smokestacks, windmills, silos, sign structures, or light poles, or in locations where the existing topography, vegetation, buildings, or other structures provide the greatest amount of screening and backdrop.

POLICY 5-5B.2

Balance the need for telecommunication services and the desire to preserve the visual environment.



EMERGENCY SERVICES

GOAL 5-6

PROVIDE QUALITY EMERGENCY SERVICES TO COUNTY RESIDENTS IN THE MOST EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER POSSIBLE.

OBJECTIVE 5-6A

PROVIDE COORDINATED LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES THAT CORRESPOND WITH POPULATION GROWTH.

POLICY 5-6A.1

Integrate safety improvements with new development projects.

POLICY 5-6A.2

Require adequate emergency access in all developments with two points of access and connections between neighborhoods, where feasible.

POLICY 5-6A.3

The location and design of emergency service substations should be efficient and compatible with the surrounding area.

OBJECTIVE 5-6B

ENSURE EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARE AVAILABLE.

POLICY 5-6B.1

Require district service plans proposing fire protection to include provisions for technical rescue, emergency services, and environmental hazard response.

POLICY 5-6B.2

Require new development to be served by a fire district with adequate fire protection facilities, equipment and service capabilities, unless determined impractical.

HEALTH CARE

GOAL 5-7

INTEGRATE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES INTO NEW AND EXISTING COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT IMPROVED QUALITY OF CARE.

OBJECTIVE 5-7A

SUPPORT ZONING FOR HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

POLICY 5-7A.1

Encourage private health care facilities to locate in Douglas County.

POLICY 5-7A.2

Support health care facilities and supportive industries.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

An important component of Douglas County's sense of place is its historic legacy. This legacy is evident in our heritage of agriculture, mining, industry, and transportation and in our cultural resources. Cultural resources include historic roads, buildings, structures, sites, districts, landscapes, archeological sites, as well as cultural practices.

GOAL 5-8

Preserve Douglas County's cultural resources for future generations.

OBJECTIVE 5-8A

SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES.

POLICY 5-8A.1

Encourage partnerships and community-based efforts to plan for the preservation of cultural resources.

POLICY 5-8A.2

Identify and support the preservation of sites and artifacts with historic, prehistoric, or cultural significance.

POLICY 5-8A.3

Encourage the incorporation of historical and cultural resources into development plans.

POLICY 5-8A.4

Cooperate with the Historic Preservation Board, historical societies, and archeological organizations to promote the preservation of cultural resources.

CULTURAL FACILITIES

GOAL 5-9

PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CULTURAL EXPERIENCES.

Objective 5-9A

ESTABLISH CULTURAL FACILITY LOCATIONS IN NEW AND EXISTING COMMUNITIES.

POLICY 5-9A.1

Encourage land dedication for cultural facilities within urban development.

POLICY 5-9A.2

Encourage developers to include small-scale cultural facilities such as outdoor theatres or gazebos through appropriate land use application processes.

