



HERITAGE, ARTS, RECREATION AND TOURISM

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With its unique history and architectural heritage, active arts scene, widespread recreation options, abundant green and open spaces, and many community events year-round, Littleton offers an array of amenities that appeal to residents and visitors. All aspects of the Plan shape the livability of Littleton, but this section especially reinforces the quality of life its residents enjoy.

LEGACY OF PAST PLANNING

- Commercial Modernism in the Greater West Littleton Boulevard Corridor 1950-1980, 2018
- Littleton Museum Strategic Institutional Plan 2010-2020, 2017
- Town Hall Arts Center 2025 Vision Plan, 2015
- City of Littleton Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan, 2016
- South Platte Park Management Plan, 2017
- South Platte River Corridor Vision, Arapahoe County, 2013
- South Suburban Park and Recreation Master Plan, 2017
- High Line Canal Vision Plan, 2017
- High Line Canal Framework Plan, 2019

KEY ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- Threats to Littleton's historic legacy and architectural heritage.
- Concern over development encroachment, both physical and visual, on Littleton's preserved green and open spaces, and desire for greater emphasis on the continuity and potential enlargement of linear greenway segments within the community.
- The need for more effective collaboration with partner entities that have responsibility for managing and enhancing elements of Littleton's park and open space inventory (e.g., South Suburban Park and Recreation District, High Line Canal Conservancy, etc.).
- The desire to support well-established cultural and entertainment destinations, and events and festivals that fill the calendar year-round in Littleton.
- Convenient and safe public access to parks, trails, and greenways within the city, especially where potential users are separated from these resources by major roadways and other physical barriers.
- Ongoing appreciation and promotion of Littleton Museum and Bemis Library as special public assets.
- Active arts and cultural programs and organizations that offer opportunities to experience and enjoy the arts in Littleton while contributing to the city's economic vitality.
- Littleton's tourism appeal and its approach to accommodating visitors for leisure and business.

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

GOALS

- GOAL HART 1:** Preserved and enhanced public green spaces that provide access to nature, widespread opportunities for recreation and play close to home, and continuous greenway connections within and through the city.
- GOAL HART 2:** Continued protection and promotion of Littleton's heritage, especially where it is tangibly visible in historic architecture, designated districts and landmarks, and distinctive neighborhoods and buildings.

GOAL HART 3: A healthy community with convenient access to recreational facilities and programming and outdoor fitness activities.

GOAL HART 4: A vibrant city for both residents and visitors, enlivened by an active downtown, an array of arts, cultural, and entertainment options both indoor and outdoor, extensive heritage tourism opportunities, and popular community events and festivals throughout the year.

GOAL HART 5: A community that thrives on and leverages the economic and social power of the arts to enhance its fiscal strength, regional reputation, social connectivity, and overall quality of life for residents of all ages.

POLICIES

In making decisions that involve public resource allocation, regulatory matters, and physical improvements, among others, Littleton will:

Policy HART 1: Maintain close and mutually beneficial relationships with the South Suburban Park and Recreation District, South Platte Working Group, High Line Canal Conservancy, Hudson Gardens, and other key partners that enable Littleton residents and visitors to enjoy a large quantity of high quality recreational assets and public open space.

Policy HART 2: Strive to build consensus and support on how best the City can preserve more areas and structures with historic significance, and protect designated and potential new historic districts and landmarks.

Policy HART 3: Prioritize public safety, including safe access to and from parks and other public spaces, and personal security while enjoying parks, trails, and community facilities and events.

Policy HART 4: Incorporate guidance and incentives into the City's zoning and subdivision regulations so that green and open spaces are aligned and integrated across private development sites and adjacent public lands.

Policy HART 5: Incorporate guidance and incentives into the City's zoning and subdivision regulation to promote sensitive design approaches on sites with, or adjacent to, historic structures and areas.

Policy HART 6: Continue to plan for, and budget, adequate resources to maintain and enhance Bemis Library and Littleton Museum as premier public facilities with targeted programming for all ages.

Policy HART 7: Regularly evaluate the appropriate and most effective methods the City can use for devoting resources and support to cultural arts and community events programming.

Policy HART 8: Be aware of the diverse perspective and needs of visitors to Littleton, along with those of residents.

ACTIONS

Capital Investments

Action HART 1: Utilize the project funding prioritization methodology recommended by the Open Space and Parks Task Force to maximize the leveraging of available funding and advance park, trail, and open space projects that address objectives of the City and its multiple partners.

Programs and Initiatives

Action HART 2: Develop an organizational structure within the City for handling park-related issues, collaboration, public inquiries, and funding pursuits as detailed in the 2016 Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan. Include the Fine Arts Board as many public art sculptures are located in parks.

Action HART 3: Improve access to parks and recreation information and increase City communication (website, social media, etc.) to promote awareness of plans, policies, facilities and programming at recreational sites, including those of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District, Hudson Gardens, and others.

Action HART 4: Research and report on the various ways visitors travel to and move about the community; how they experience popular locations and events; what they tell others about their experience; and what factors determine how much time and money they spend locally.

Action HART 5: Coordinate with partners to track visitor utilization of recreation facilities, sites, and other types of Littleton amenities, and monitor changing local, state, and national tourism trends.

Action HART 6: Continue to promote awareness and appreciation of the full range of Littleton's arts, cultural, and historic assets through ongoing activities, special events, and partnerships.

Action HART 7: Evaluate opportunities and partnerships for incorporating art amenities into public projects such as buildings and infrastructure improvements.

Action HART 8: Continue the Main Street Historic District Grant Program and support the promotion and continued use of historic tax credits.

Action HART 9: Consider a Littleton application for Creative District Certification through the State of Colorado.

Action 9 Link:

The Creative Districts Certification Process is established by the State's Creative Industries Division. Colorado now has 23 Creative Districts across the state. Greeley's Creative District "blends the historic Downtown Development and University Districts in a continuum of dynamic and complementary uses."



COLORADO CREATIVE DISTRICTS

Regulations and Standards

Action HART 10: Evaluate the potential for dedicated park and recreation funding through impact fees versus other options, such as land contributions or other fees, as detailed in the 2016 Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan.

Action HART 11: Through the Historic Preservation Board and other forums, continue to build consensus on measures the City should consider and implement – regulatory and/or otherwise – for preserving more areas and structures with distinctive historic value and character, along with ongoing protection of previously designated places and identification of potential new historic districts and landmarks.

Partnerships and Coordination

Action HART 12: Continue and enhance collaboration, communication, and partnerships with the many agencies, organizations and non-profits that provide and/or advocate for heritage, arts, cultural, recreation, and open space amenities in Littleton.

Action HART 13: Promote the wellness of residents by collaborating with partner agencies and organizations, and market Littleton's many parks and recreation offerings as essential elements of an active lifestyle.

Action HART 14: Pursue ways to close gaps in the existing local and regional trail systems to improve access and connectivity to jobs, education, fresh food, and health care, among others.

Action HART 15: Work with partners to promote multi-use trail etiquette, safety, and education.

Action HART 16: Engage volunteers and leverage their involvement to increase awareness, education, and use of park and recreation amenities, Littleton Museum, and Bemis Library.

Action 14 Link:

Improving High Line Canal Trail connections at Broadway is identified as one of seven transformation projects in the High Line Canal Conservancy Framework Plan.

Action HART 17: Improve coordination of signage and wayfinding at parks, recreation sites, trails, and open space areas, and also within residential neighborhoods and commercial areas.

Action HART 18: Continue to emphasize regional collaboration as the best means for enhancing the South Platte River corridor as both an environmental and community amenity.

Action HART 19: Investigate with area utility providers the potential to integrate art on utility facilities, such as utility cabinets in public view.

Action HART 20: Encourage incorporation of art in private developments.

More Targeted Planning / Study

Action HART 21: Build on planning efforts for the South Platte River Corridor to clarify and integrate goals for this key community asset involving economics, aesthetics, recreation, and the environment.

Action HART 22: Complete regular updates to the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan, highlight implementation progress and successes – especially through partnership efforts, and continue to communicate Littleton’s park, recreation, **trail**, and open space priorities to funding partners.

Action HART 23: Lay the groundwork for preparing a holistic historic preservation plan and strategy for ongoing preservation efforts in Littleton, involving broad community engagement to gauge resident, property owner and stakeholder sentiment on the methods and extent to which the City should utilize available preservation tools.

Action HART 24: Use the City’s initiatives to update its zoning and development regulations and pursue further downtown-focused planning as precursors to a historic preservation plan.

Action HART 25: Coordinate with partner organizations to prepare for development of a holistic Arts and Culture Plan for Littleton. The plan can include identification of new and sustaining funding sources, and explore a potential advisory committee to coordinate across all aspects of programming, promotion, and development.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Partners for implementation of plan priorities related to Heritage, Arts, Recreation, and Tourism include:

- Neighboring jurisdictions and Arapahoe, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties
- Aspen Grove
- Colorado Tourism Office
- Denver Regional Council of Governments
- High Line Canal Conservancy
- **Historic Littleton, Inc.**
- Hudson Gardens
- Littleton Public Schools
- Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
- South Platte Working Group
- South Suburban Park and Recreation District
- Tri-County Health Department
- **Trust for Public Land**

ARTS AND CULTURE

Littleton is home to a remarkable range of arts and cultural events, activities, galleries, performances, and studios. The City operates the Littleton Museum, the first museum in Colorado to be recognized as an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.



The appointed Fine Arts Board advises City officials and staff in developing a fine arts collection, and assists in selecting and purchasing public art for installation in public buildings, parks, and open spaces. The Board also arranges periodic art shows, selects art and sculpture for the Littleton Center, and reviews all art donations to the City. The Board's collection now numbers 32 public art installations, plus some smaller pieces that are exhibited periodically inside the Littleton Museum.

Littleton is also home to the Hudson Gardens and Event Center, the Depot Art Gallery run by the Littleton Fine Arts Guild, the Littleton Chorale, and the Town Hall Arts Center. All of these entities serve to enhance not only the quality of life within Littleton, but are also important engines of economic development.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND FUNDING SOURCES

- Colorado Business Committee for the Arts
- Scientific and Cultural Facilities District
- Cultural Councils of Arapahoe, Douglas, and Jefferson Counties
- The Fine Arts Foundation
- Western States Art Federation (WESTAF)
- Colorado Creative Industries – a division of the State of Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Americans for the Arts' 2018 Public Opinion Poll found that 90 percent of people agree that arts institutions are important to quality of life and 86 percent agree that arts institutions are important to local businesses and the economy.

Littleton *ROCKS!*

The City of Littleton's Littleton Rocks! website is devoted to publicizing art and cultural events as well as other activities offered in Littleton.

Colorado Aperture Show
 @ Depot Art Gallery
 Sep 17 all-day

August 27 – September 29, 2019, hours vary by day. The Littleton Fine Arts Guild and the Depot Art Gallery presents its second fine art photography exhibit, Colorado Aperture 2019. This juried show was open[...]

ARTS & CRAFTS GALLERY / ARTIST

A Tour of Italy @
 Colorado Gallery of the Arts
 Sep 17 @ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

View Works featured by Drawing, Interior Design, Journalism, Painting & Photography study abroad students. August 12 through September 18 Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Cabaret @ Town Hall
 Arts Center
 Sep 19 all-day

Farmers' Markets at
 Aspen Grove @ Aspen Grove Shopping Center
 Sep 18 @ 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

According to the Colorado Business Committee for the Arts' 2018 Economic Activity Study of Metro Denver Culture, nonprofit arts, cultural and scientific organizations in the seven-county metro region generated \$1.9 billion in economic activity as well as 11,820 jobs and 4.3 million education opportunities for children.