

# Community Quality of Life/ Citizen Engagement Committee



## VISION

Centennial, Colorado is a proud, thriving community committed to the conservation of the natural beauty of our City, promoting a vibrant economy with a sustainable future, providing outstanding educational opportunities for our citizens, and nurturing a supportive community that enhances the lives of all our citizens: children, families, singles and seniors. We are a community of citizens that feels safe and secure. We honor the integrity and values of our neighborhoods, and support a government that is responsive, respectful and accountable to our citizens. We celebrate our past and look forward to the future.



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Susan Pye (Chair)

Peter Cooney

Lynn Goering

Tamara Hunter-Maurer

Bill Koerner

Heather Kreider

Shari Lawson

Alex Muggenthaler

Thom Reed



The Community Quality of Life / Citizen Engagement committee focused on the tangible community assets that enrich overall quality of life in Centennial. Members also focused on how the City could create an environment that would encourage a more participatory community in government and civic activities. Topics included education, outdoor recreation, city events, safety and maintaining strong neighborhoods.

The group heard from Linda Haley, Senior Resources Division Director for Arapahoe County, who discussed the expected needs and services for the area's growing aging population; Centennial Youth Commission members Ashley Lambert, Amy Barber, Karen Bobkowski and Jeff Nadel lent perspective on tomorrow's Centennial residents; and Centennial Communications Director Sherry Patten reviewed DRCOG data on future demographics.

<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.</b> Everyone will have the opportunity to challenge themselves intellectually through all stages of life. This includes pre-school, K-12 public education, higher education, learning new trades or skills, or any type of experience that stimulates the intellectual and creative process for our citizens.				
<i>Strategy 1</i>	<b>FOSTER STRONG PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS</b> (Pre-school through grade 12).	Suggested Supporting Partners (Partner lists are examples, not exhaustive)	Timeline		
			0-5 Yrs	6-10 Yrs	11+ Yrs
<i>Action 1.1</i>	<b>CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM.</b> Programs could facilitate students interacting with the City, businesses, citizens, cultural facilities and others to gain real-life learning opportunities.	Cherry Creek School Dist., Littleton Public Schools, private schools, home schooling	x		
<i>Action 1.2</i>	<b>DEVELOP A CITIZEN-LED VOLUNTEER CORP THAT SUPPORTS SCHOOLS</b> in their fundraising efforts, programs and other needed areas.	Cherry Creek School Dist, Littleton School Dist.	x		
<i>Action 1.3</i>	<b>CREATE A RECOGNITION PROGRAM FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS</b> for schools within Centennial.	Cherry Creek School Dist, Littleton School Dist., private schools, home schooling	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (continued)</b>				
<i>Strategy 2</i>	<b>FOSTER STRONG LIFE-LONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CENTENNIAL CITIZENS THAT PROMOTE CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING, INCLUDING JOB RE-TRAINING, CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER AREAS OF STUDY.</b>				
<i>Action 2.1</i>	<b>CREATE A CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES</b> so citizens and businesses can access all the educational opportunities that exist in and around the City.	Public school systems, Arapahoe Community College, Aurora Community College, Colorado Department of Wildlife, cross-county arts and science programs and events, and association and society events such as the Denver Astronomical Society	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (continued)</b>				
<i>Action 2.2</i>	<b>DEVELOP STRONG PARTNERSHIPS WITH EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b> to make opportunities available that are convenient for in-person or online learning.	Public school systems, Arapahoe Community College, Aurora Community College, Colorado Department of Wildlife, cross-county arts and science programs and events, and association and society events such as the Denver Astronomical Society	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>NATURAL BEAUTY.</b> Centennial represents citizens' value of fresh air, water, sunshine, natural surroundings, exercise (fitness, strength, energy and health) and quality time with friends and family. There are abundant opportunities for healthy, fun, green ways to spend time.				
<i>Strategy 3</i>	<b>OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.</b> Parks, open spaces, lakes, bike trails, recreational facilities and playgrounds provide places to relax, play and enjoy family.				
<i>Action 3.1</i>	<b>ACQUIRE AS MUCH OPEN SPACE AS POSSIBLE</b> to provide more recreational space for citizens – connectivity, sports fields, on-street biking for commuters and parks.	City Council, Open Space Committee	x	x	x
<i>Action 3.2</i>	<b>IMPLEMENT THE OPEN SPACE PLAN,</b> giving citizens free and beautiful resources to hike and bike within the City limits and improving accessibility of services.	Parks & Recreation Special Districts, Open Space Committee	x	x	x
<i>Action 3.3</i>	<b>MAINTAIN TRAILS</b> so that natural beauty and usefulness are preserved.	Parks & Recreation Special Districts	x		
<i>Action 3.4</i>	<b>DEVELOP A CULTURAL CENTER</b> with indoor and outdoor activities that ties into the park system (Example: Hudson Gardens, Arvada Center).			x	



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>NATURAL BEAUTY (continued)</b>				
<i>Action 3.5</i>	<b>DEVELOP A CENTRAL CLEARINGHOUSE SYSTEM TO ACCESS PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES</b> with real-time availability, ability to make reservations, etc. This should also have the capability of connecting people with similar interests.	South Suburban, Arapahoe and other parks and recreation districts and facilities	x		
<i>Strategy 4</i>	<b>CLEAN AND WELL MAINTAINED ROADS, CITY PROPERTIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS. CITIZENS AND CITY WORKING TOGETHER TO SHOW RESPECT OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY IN VARIOUS EFFORTS.</b>				
<i>Action 4.1</i>	<b>CREATE AN ADOPT A STREET PROGRAM</b> in which the City partners with Arapahoe County to help keep the streets clean and free of clutter.	Arapahoe County, Centennial businesses, Centennial service organizations	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>NATURAL BEAUTY (continued)</b>				
<i>Action 4.2</i>	<b>CREATE AN ADOPT A TRAIL PROGRAM</b> in which the City partners with Parks and Recreation districts so volunteers can be a part of developing and maintaining the trail system.	South Suburban, Arapahoe and other parks and recreation districts, Centennial businesses, Centennial service organizations	x		
<i>Strategy 5</i>	<b>RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIORS. RECREATION PROGRAMS AND A SYSTEM OF PARKS THAT SUPPORT DIVERSITY IN ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.</b>				
<i>Action 5.1</i>	<b>FORM A SENIOR COMMISSION</b> to create partnerships with existing entities to provide more education and health programs aimed toward seniors.	South Suburban Parks & Rec, Malley Senior Center, Kaiser, Centura, Exempla, HealthOne, other appropriate partners.		x	



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>NATURAL BEAUTY (continued)</b>				
<i>Action 5.2</i>	<b>RECRUIT PRIVATE HEALTH CLUBS THAT CATER TO SENIORS</b> to locate in Centennial.	Economic Development Dept.,			x
<i>Action 5.3</i>	<b>CREATE FAMILY OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS TO PROMOTE HEALTH</b> such as 5k runs, parades, cycling events etc.	School districts, Rotary Club, cycling clubs, running stores/clubs	x		
<i>Action 5.4</i>	<b>CREATE SIGNATURE EVENTS</b> such as art events, celebrations, book fairs, etc.	Libraries, retail stores, Centennial businesses	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY A RESPONSIVE CITY GOVERNMENT AND RESPECTED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY.</b>				
<i>Strategy 6</i>	<b>ENCOURAGE AND NURTURE STRONG, ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS.</b>				
<i>Action 6.1</i>	<b>SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVITIES</b> that are determined by the residents (for example, street closures for block parties)	City and neighborhood associations, Planning and Zoning	x	x	x
<i>Action 6.2</i>	<b>ENCOURAGE FUTURE PLANNING COMMISSIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NATURAL BEAUTY ELEMENTS AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE APPRECIATED AND VALUED IN OUR OPEN SPACES AND EXISTING NEIGHORHOODS</b> when considering new redevelopment activities.	City and neighborhood associations, Planning and Zoning	x	x	x
<i>Action 6.3</i>	<b>PROVIDE PLACES FOR CITIZENS TO CONGREGATE</b> to share similar activities (parks, libraries, cultural centers, etc.)		x	x	x



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Comm. Quality Vision Element	NEIGHBORHOODS THAT ARE SUPPORTED BY A RESPONSIVE CITY GOVERNMENT AND RESPECTED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CITY. (continued)				
Action 6.4	<b>CONTINUE TO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZENS</b> to be part of as well as learn about the City's operations and future plans. This information is to be provided through Ward meetings, meetings with the Mayor, or training.		X	X	X
Action 6.5	<b>TRAIN CITY EMPLOYEES AND CITY SUB-CONTRACTORS</b> in customer service skills.		X	X	X



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>SAFETY.</b> Citizens must feel safe in their homes and on the streets of Centennial. They must also feel secure that their air and water are clean, safe and in adequate supply.				
<i>Strategy 7</i>	<b>STRONG, EFFECTIVE MEDICAL, POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.</b> Citizens feel safe walking the streets, playing in the parks and allowing their children to travel and play throughout the city. Citizens feel secure knowing that fire personnel, EMT's and hospital personnel will professionally and competently handle emergency situations.				
<i>Action 7.1</i>	<b>MAINTAIN A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY'S LAW ENFORCEMENT PROVIDER</b> to provide exceptional security emergency services to city.	City Council, Arapahoe County Sheriff, telecommunications providers	x		
<i>Action 7.2</i>	<b>CREATE A CITIZEN-LED COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR POLICE PROTECTION.</b>	City Council, Residents, Arapahoe County Sheriff		x	



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Comm. Quality Vision Element	SAFETY (continued)				
Action 7.3	<b>DEVELOP A SAFETY CLEARINGHOUSE</b> that provides citizens information and tips on safety, and alerts them to the existence of such programs as Neighborhood Watch.	Arapahoe County Sheriff	x		
Action 7.4	<b>MAINTAIN A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH FIRE AND EMERGENCY DISTRICTS</b> to continue to provide exceptional services to the city.	Fire Districts	x		
Action 7.5	<b>CREATE A CITIZEN-LED COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY PROTECTION.</b>	Residents, Fire Districts	x		
Action 7.6	<b>MAINTAIN A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH WATER AUTHORITIES</b> to ensure they are meeting safety regulations and keeping citizens apprised of water quality, planning for sufficient water for the future, including developing a conservation ethic among citizens.	Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority, South Metro Wastewater Authority (others tbd)	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>SAFETY (continued)</b>				
<i>Action 7.7</i>	<b>MAINTAIN A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS</b> to continue to provide exceptional services to the city.	Hospital and Health Care Providers	x		
<i>Action 7.8</i>	<b>MAINTAIN A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH AIR QUALITY REGULATORS</b> so that clean air is preserved.	Air quality control groups	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>ECONOMY.</b> The city will be a vibrant place to live only if the economy is strong, the businesses support employment and shopping needs of citizens, the citizens support the businesses by buying from them and the city has a tax base sufficient to meet the service desires of the citizens. A healthy economy will produce a vibrant, exciting, well-kept, fun living environment.				
<i>Strategy 8</i>	<b>A BALANCE OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.</b> Citizens are able to shop for their needs within the city. This will attract companies that resonate with the vision of the city, and offer employment for citizens. Tax revenues will increase to support other city initiatives.				
<i>Action 8.1</i>	<b>DEVELOP A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR BUSINESS ISSUES,</b> so businesses and citizens can access information about Centennial businesses, products and services (e.g. Develop a Centennial Chamber of Commerce.)	Chambers of Commerce	x		
<i>Action 8.2</i>	<b>DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN</b> that allows citizens to increasingly find their suppliers and customers locally.	City Council, Economic Health Committee, Developers	x		



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Comm. Quality Vision Element	ECONOMY (continued)				
Action 8.3	<b>CREATE A CITIZEN-LED COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR REVITALIZING AND REDEVELOPING AREAS</b> by encouraging businesses that are part of the community. The revitalization and redevelopment plans should conform to the identity of the city and should encourage a wide range of housing prices.	City Services, Businesses	x		
Action 8.4	<b>ENSURE THAT ALL NEW BUSINESSES ARE CLEAN</b> businesses that protect air and water quality, that they provide more employment, that they increase the tax base and that there is special attention paid to making sure there is adequate retail opportunity for citizens.		x	x	x
Action 8.5	<b>ENCOURAGE CITIZENS TO SUPPORT</b> local businesses. (For example, develop a promotional campaign like “Always Buy Colorado.” Also, see Clearinghouse Action 8.1 and Transportation Action 9.1).		x	x	x



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<i>Strategy 9</i>	<b>ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION THAT IS WELL-LIT, SAFE, CONVENIENT AND AFFORDABLE AND CUTS DOWN ON TRAFFIC, POLLUTION AND CONGESTION.</b>				
<i>Action 9.1</i>	<b>PROPOSE A SPECIALIZED CENTENNIAL BUS SYSTEM</b> that encourages people to use City facilities and visit businesses.	RTD		x	
<i>Action 9.2</i>	<b>DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN TO ACCOMMODATE FUTURE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS</b> to prepare for growth and address traffic issues on Arapahoe Road. Includes acquiring or designating land now for future use as well as developing the feasibility study for a transportation hub that links various modes of transportation and retail in the city.	RTD, CDOT	x		



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT.</b> The city will facilitate ways for citizens to increase their connections to one another, promote a supportive environment for all citizen groups, and provide a means for citizens to contribute their talents and energies. Citizens will feel supported, connected and valuable within the community.				
<i>Strategy 10</i>	<b>USE A TIERED SYSTEM OF RECRUITING AND COORDINATING VOLUNTEERS FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.</b>				
<i>Action 10.1</i>	<b>RECRUIT A HIGH-LEVEL GROUP OF “AMBASSADORS”</b> who will be nominated and go through a review process and who will serve as lead volunteers, recruiting and coordinating others for specific purposes.	Chambers of Commerce, civic organizations, Communities of Faith, HOA boards, other neighborhood groups	x		
<i>Action 10.2</i>	<b>ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDE TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS AS NEEDED.</b>	City contractors, special districts, DRCOG	x	x	x
<i>Action 10.3</i>	<b>TASK THE “AMBASSADORS” THAT ARE WORKING WITH CITY OUTREACH STAFF, WITH COORDINATING AND MANAGING THE CREATION OF ALL INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSES RECOMMENDED IN THIS ACTION PLAN.</b>	All entities having pertinent information that citizens need to access easily and regularly	x	x	x



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<i>Comm. Quality Vision Element</i>	<b>CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT (continued)</b>				
<i>Action 10.4</i>	<b>USE “AMBASSADORS” AS A THINK TANK FOR NEIGHBORHOODS</b> to use in brainstorming activities and to help deploy volunteers in support of neighborhood and citywide programs.		x	x	x
<i>Action 10.5</i>	<b>USE VOLUNTEERS</b> to stretch the paid resources providing city services.		x	x	x
<i>Action 10.6</i>	<b>CREATE A CLEARINGHOUSE FOR VOLUNTEERS</b> (ex: EHarmony)		x		
<i>Action 10.7</i>	<b>RECOGNIZE AND REWARD VOLUNTEERS</b> (tax rebate, free bus pass, lunches, certificates, celebrations, etc.)	Centennial businesses, service providers, special districts	x		



