Neighborhood Planning Initiative Update

Land Use, Transportation, and Infrastructure Committee
December 10, 2024

Agenda

- NPI overview
- Status of current plans
- Program evaluation implementation
- Determining next plan areas

Background and Overview

"How should this area evolve over time?"

A shared vision for the future of a community
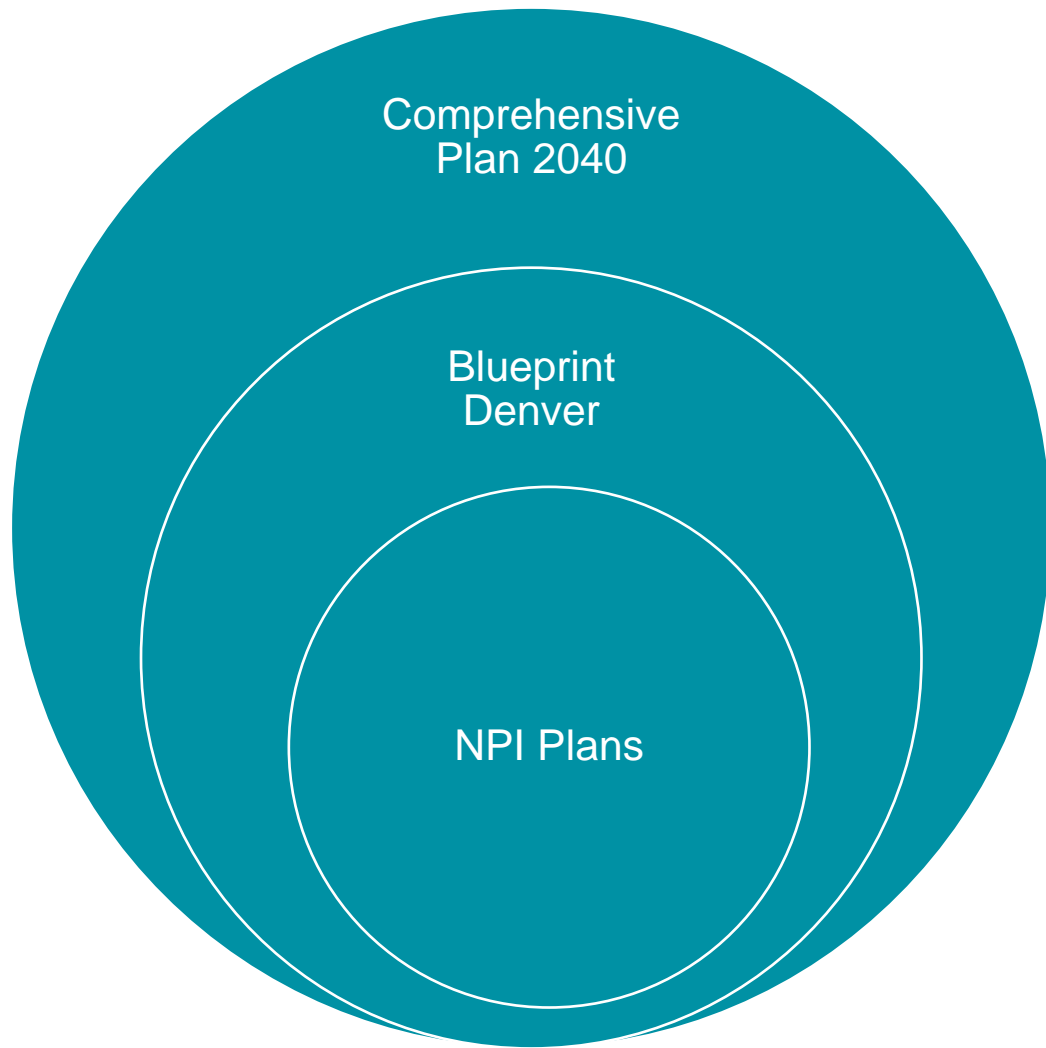
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2040

CITYWIDE PLANS

NEIGHBORHOOD & SMALL AREA PLANS
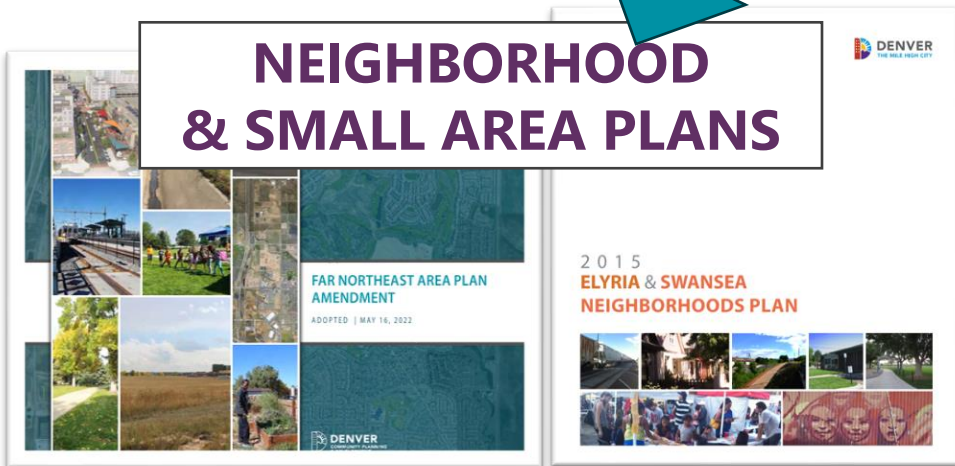
Neighborhood Plans

- ✓ *Refine and apply citywide goals and policies in specific areas*
- ✓ *Address neighborhood issues*
- ✓ *Set priorities so it is easier to take action on neighborhood needs*

Comprehensive Plan 2040

Blueprint Denver

NPI Plans

Neighborhood Planning Initiative

- ✓ *Intentional process*
- ✓ *Equitable outcomes*
- ✓ *Measurable goals*

JANUARY 2, 2024

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING INITIATIVE STRATEGIC PLAN

neighborhood
PLANNING INITIATIVE

DENVER
COMMUNITY PLANNING
& DEVELOPMENT

Program Intent

A planning process that is more efficient and equitable

Plans that are easier to understand and use

Plans that are better set up for implementation

Summary of Improvements

What are the major changes made through the NPI Evaluation?

1. Plan process improvements
2. Plan content improvements

A Better Process

Expand outreach and "saturate" engagement at the start of each planning process

Conduct a statistically valid survey

Employ community navigators throughout

Use advisory committee to get broader input on steering the process

Create focus group devoted to engagement equity

A Better Process

Streamline visioning by consolidating first two planning phases and using Blueprint Denver and Comprehensive Plan 2040 as a foundation

Using on-call consultants to speed up procurement process

Complete plans in about 18 months

Stronger, focused plans

Focus on Blueprint and Comp Plan topics and follow Blueprint organization

Outcome-oriented policies and strategies

Reduce repetition

Limit additional content

Clearer language and easier to understand

Actionable Plans

Include detailed Implementation Plan appendix

Identify priorities and next steps

Include staff from other departments

Rely on Blueprint metrics

DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Far Southwest Area Plan

Southwest Area Plan

Plan Process

We're here.

Understand the Area & Identifying Opportunities

Refine Recommendations

Community Review of Draft Plan

Adoption

Understand the Area and Draft Opportunities

✓ *Research existing conditions*

✓ *Apply citywide plan guidance*

✓ *Build awareness of plan*

✓ *Form advisory committee*

February – July 2024

Refine Opportunities

✓ *Gather feedback from the community*

✓ *Update and improve draft opportunities*

✓ *Create draft plan document*

August 2024 – January 2025

Community Review of Draft Plan

- ✓ *Review first plan draft with the community*

- ✓ *Update and improve the draft plan*

- ✓ *Review a second plan draft with the community*

February – July 2025

Legislative Review and Adoption

✓ *Final revisions to the draft plan*

✓ *Review by advisory committee*

✓ *Planning Board approval*

✓ *City Council adoption*

August – November 2025

Implementation of Program Evaluation

Successes

Implementation of on-call contract

Representation in advisory committees

Starting engagement with draft opportunities

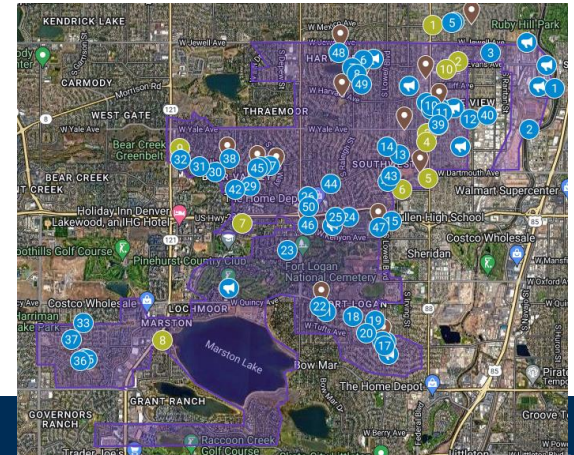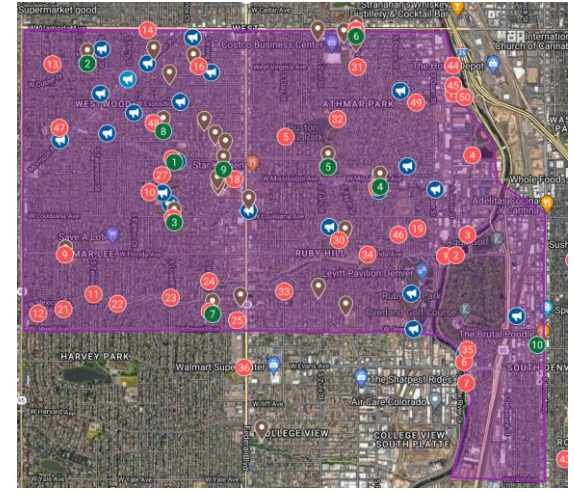Keeping draft opportunities focused on topics from citywide plans

Saturation engagement

89 touch points with the community

50k postcards

100+ yard signs

470 combined attendance at kickoff workshops

Lessons learned

Challenges communicating the new process starting with draft opportunities

Balancing specific and detailed draft opportunities with time for community input

Determining next plan areas

Plan Area Selection Criteria

- Indicators of planning need based on data
- Equity considerations incorporated with 2022 update
- Map layers citywide along 3 key themes (7 layers total):
  - **Equity** (Access to Opportunity, Vulnerability to Displacement, Housing Diversity)
  - **Investment** (Building Permits, CIP Projects, Underutilized Land)
  - **Plan Recency** (No small area plans since 2019)
- Identify areas with the greatest amounts of overlap and prioritize NPI plans in those areas

Plan areas

In-progress plans:

- Southwest
- Far Southwest
- Downtown
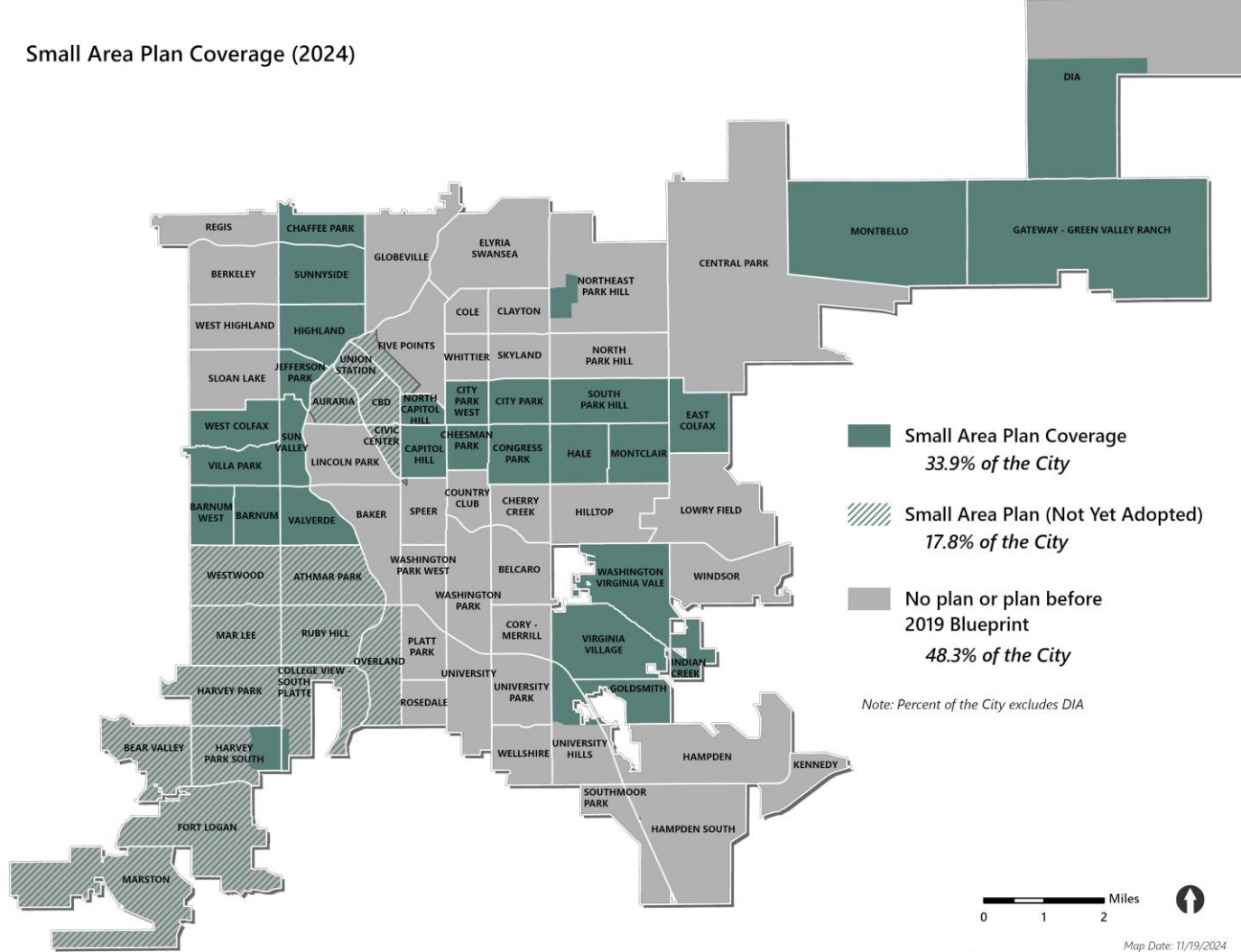
Next Steps

- Update data and run analysis in spring 2025
- Bring proposed phase 4 plan areas to LUTI around April

Questions