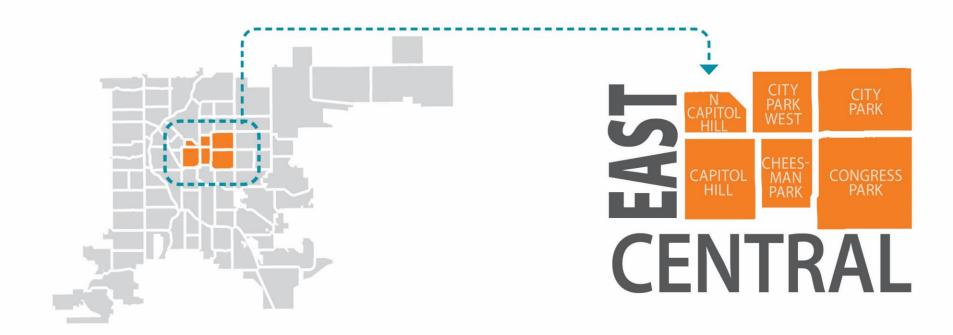
## East Central Area Plan

#### City Council October 5th, 2020





#### Presentation

• Overview of plan structure and content

- Review Criteria
  - Public process
  - Plan consistency
  - Long-term view



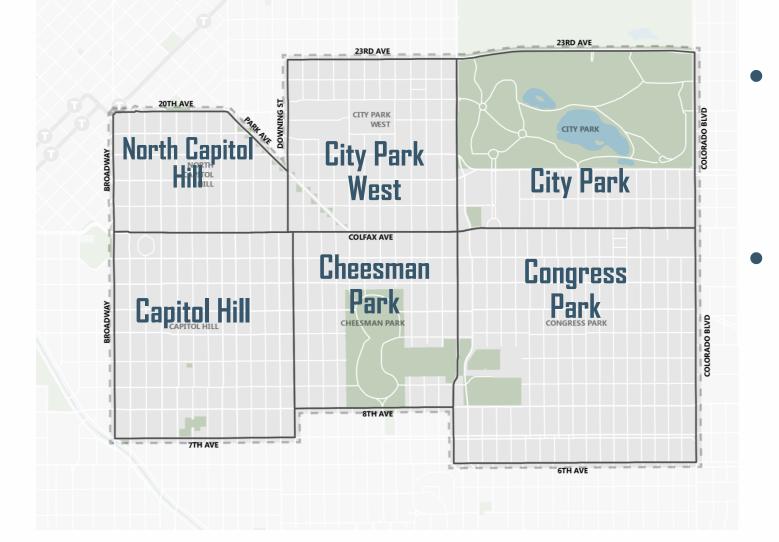


## Plan Overview Structure & Content





#### **East Central Area Plan Boundaries**



83% of population in Council District 10

17% of population in Council District 9





## **Plan Structure**

- Introduction
- Area-wide Recommendations
  - Land Use & Built Form
  - Economy & Housing
  - Mobility
  - Quality of Life Infrastructure
- Neighborhoods of East Central
- Colfax Corridor
- Implementation





# **Equity Concepts**

- Access to Opportunity
- Vulnerability to Displacement
- Jobs and Housing Diversity



#### Improving Access to Opportunity

creating more equitable access to quality-of-life amenities, health and quality education. Reducing Vulnerability to Displacement stabilizing residents and businesses who are vulnerable to involuntary displacement due to increasing property values and rents.

#### Expanding Housing and Jobs Diversity

providing a better and more inclusive range of housing and employment options in all neighborhoods.





- Strengthen the local economy by providing training for jobs in local industries, improving access to employment, and supporting locally-owned, independent businesses. Priority recommendations include:
  - A. Partnering with East Central hospitals to provide job training to residents and affordable housing for healthcare employees (See Policies El & E1O)
  - B. Preserving the independent culture of Colfax by proactively helping small, independent businesses survive and thrive during and after Colfax Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) construction by providing financial and technical assistance (see Policies C-E3 and C-E4).





- 2. Make housing more affordable and make more options available to a wide range of families and individuals. Priority recommendations include:
  - A. Providing a more diverse range of housing options in neighborhoods (See Policies L5, & E11)
  - B. Using every tool in the tool box, including zoning, to address the housing shortage by adding new affordable housing close to convenient public transit. (see Policies L3, E10 & E11)





- Improve services for residents experiencing homelessness and take steps to prevent more people from losing their homes.
  Priority recommendations include:
  - A. Reducing involuntary displacement by preserving existing affordable housing (see Policy E9)
  - B. Enhancing social services to residents experiencing homelessness (see Policies E12, E13, & E14)





- Make streets safer and more comfortable for everybody by improving walking, bicycling and public transit infrastructure. Priority recommendations include:
  - A. Building high-quality sidewalks and safe crossings on Colfax (see Policy M1-A)
  - B. Making 13th (see Policy M1-L), 14th (see Policy M1-M), 16th (see Policy M1-N), and 17th (see Policy M1-O) avenues much safer to cross and travel along.





- Expand historic preservation by making it easier to reuse existing buildings, creating more historic districts, and ensuring new buildings fit in with surrounding neighborhoods. Priority recommendations include:
  - A. Creating an adaptive reuse ordinance that addresses barriers across multiple codes. (see Policies L4 & C-L1).
  - B. Incentivizing preservation of historically significant and character-providing buildings (see Policies L5, L6, & L9).
  - C. Adopting new standards for quality design and compatibility with adjacent homes (see Policies L6, L7, & L8).



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- 6. Reduce carbon pollution and create more climate-resilient neighborhoods by providing more opportunities for people to live and work near transit, adding shade trees, and taking a green approach to stormwater management. Priority recommendations include:
  - A. Directing growth near high quality transit (see Policies L3, E2, E10).
  - B. Protecting mature trees (see Policy Q6) and focusing tree planting efforts in strategic areas (see Policy Q5).





# **Transformative Projects**

- District 6 Police Station
- 11<sup>th</sup> & Ogden
- Park Avenue
- Colfax & Colorado
- 17<sup>th</sup> & Garfield
- 13<sup>th</sup> & Vine
- Community Gardens & Neighborhood Park



## Implementation

- Regulatory
- Public Infrastructure
- Partnerships / Programs



90

ECONOMY & HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

75

MOBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

44

QUALITY-OF-LIFE INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS





#### **Planning Board Review**





#### **Review Criteria**

When evaluating plans to be adopted as supplements to *Comprehensive Plan 2040*, the Denver Planning Board and City Council shall consider the following criteria:

- 1. An inclusive community process was used to develop the plan.
- 2. The plan is consistent with the vision, goals and strategies of *Comprehensive Plan 2040*.
- 3. The plan demonstrates a long-term view.





## **1. Inclusive Community Process**



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- Over 3,500 participants
- Over 10,000 comments



COMMUNITY PLANNING

## **Community Engagement**

- 6 community-wide workshops
- 14 focus group meetings
- 11 online surveys and activities
- 30 steering committee meetings
- 24 RNO and other community group meetings
- 6 office-hours sessions
- 11 field surveys



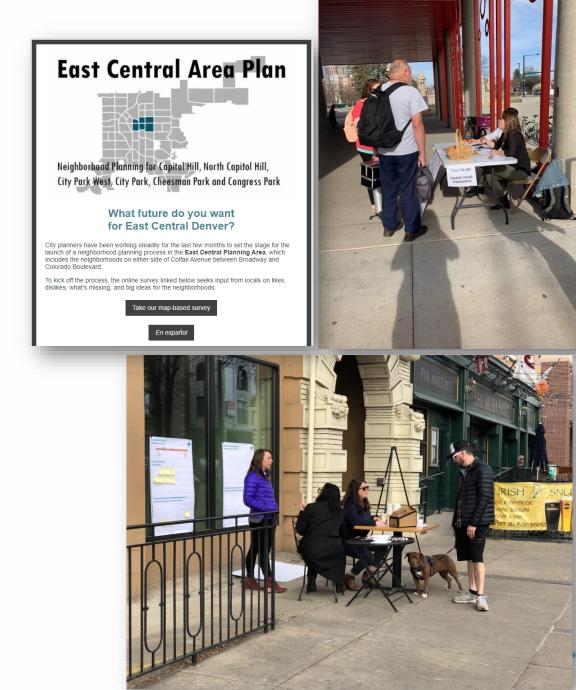
**TOP 6 MOST FREQUENT RESPONSES (NO. OF MENTIONS)** 

|     | -       | -                |                          |
|-----|---------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 287 |         |                  | Walkability              |
| 279 |         |                  | Parks and green spaces   |
| 248 |         | Loca             | al shops and restaurants |
| 199 |         | Housing, arc     | hitecture and history    |
| 176 | P       | roximity/Locati  | ion                      |
| 143 | Cultura | al & recreationa | lamenities               |
|     |         |                  |                          |



# **Community Outreach**

- 23 CPD newsletters
- 3 Denver Planning Board meetings
- 81 locations and pop-up events provided with flyers and other printed materials
- At least 8 stories by local media including the Denver Post, Denver's 7, 9News and Fox31.



## **Community Outreach**

• Spanish language interpretation, food and childcare were provided at every community workshop

# REVISA EL BORRADOR DEL SE



LEA EL PRIMER BORRADOR DEL PLAN DE EL ÁREA EAST CENTRAL & DIGANOS LO QUE PIENSAS SOBRE LAS ESTRATEGIAS ACTUALIZADAS

¿Te perdiste el taller de la comunidad o quieres más tiempo para revisar y comentar sobre el borrador del plan? Danos tu opinión por la web. El borrador del plan completo está disponible en el sitio web en: denvergov.org/eastcentralplan.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN y para añadirse a la lista de correo electrónico, visitedenvergov.org/eastcentralplan

- Bilingual flyers were distributed throughout the East Central area, including libraries, recreation centers, schools, apartment buildings and communityserving businesses to promote each workshop
- Electronic communication, web materials and online activities are compatible with smart phones, ADA accessible and available for auto-translation
- Print copies of materials and additional language services were made available upon request





## **Targeted Outreach**

- Residences at Franklin Park (a Senior Living community)
- Renaissance Uptown Lofts (supportive housing for residents experiencing homelessness)
- Christ in the City (people experiencing homelessness)
- Atlantis Community (an independent living center)
- DC-21 school
- East High School
- Seniors in September Educational and Resource Fair at Denver Botanic Gardens
- Apartment management companies
- Partnership with Councilman Hinds' Office on additional renter outreach



#### East Central Area Plan: Kick-Off Survey (Reopened\*)

Denver Community Planning and Development is working with residents to create a new neighborhood plan for the East Central Area, which includes Capitol Hill, Cheesman Park, City Park, City Park West, Congress Park, and North Capitol Hill. As a first step, the planning team is interested in gaining a better understanding of each neighborhood's needs.

This survey includes 11 questions that cover:

1. What you like about the area, and how it could be improved

2. How walkable, bikable, transit-friendly and safe the area is

3. Does the area offer good housing options?

4. How well the businesses in the area meet the neighborhood's needs

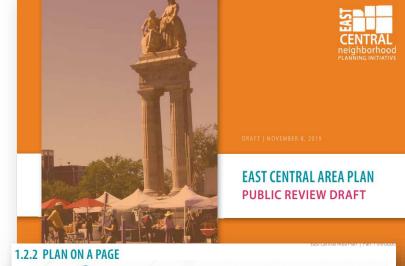
5. Which amenities are most important to you to have in your neighborhood

To learn more and get involved, visit the East Central Area Plan website. Estimated survey time: 10 minutes.

\*This survey has been reopened to allow for additional feedback. We look forward to reviewing your input!

# **Draft Plan Participation**

- Over 3,000 comments on the draft plan
- About 300 commenters took part
- 1<sup>st</sup> draft open from November 9 to April 12
- 2<sup>nd</sup> draft open May 29 to July 1
- Most comments were small changes and clarification
- 107 substantive changes were made
- All comments and changes detailed on project website





East Central Area Plan public review draft summary of changes

| hapter                | Page | Change  |
|-----------------------|------|---|
| - Intro               | 9    | Added summary text to executive summary   |
| - Intro               | 9    | Added hospital partnerships as a priority   |
| - Intro               | 9    | Added housing options in neighborhood priorities  |
| - Intro               | 9    | Added directing growth near high quality transit to priorities  |
| .1 - Land Use         | 25   | Changed context for area between 13th, 14th, Harrison, & Garfield to General Urban to match existing zoning and developm        |
| .1 - Land Use         | 27   | Modified spread for clarity   |
| .1 - Land Use         | 31   | Updated L1.B to include additional compatibility to adjacent residential areas  |
| 1 - Land Use          | 34   | In Strategy L3 added coordination with residential transitions in Policy L8   |
|                       |      |   |
| 1 - Land Use          | 34   | In Strategy L3 added outreach to underrepresented communities.  |
| 1 - Land Use          | 39   | In Strategy L5 clarified definition of missing middle housing   |
| 1 - Land Use          | 39   | In Strategy L5 identified additional East Central issues to address   |
|                       |      |   |
| .1 - Land Use         | 39   | In Strategy L5 clarified how policy applies to single unit places   |
| .1 - Land Use         | 39   | In Strategy L5 added support to rezone neighborhoods to allow ADUs prior to citywide implementation.                            |
| .1 - Land Use         | 41   | Added sidebar illustrating examples of missing middle housing.  |
| .1 - Land Use         | 42   | Added sub-strategy L6.A.1 - Facilitate adaptive reuse of historic structures by allowing a broader range of uses, including con |
| 1 - Land Use          | 42   | Added sub-strategy L6.A.2 - Facilitate the preservation of large single-unit structures by ensuring regulations do not prevent  |
| .1 - Land Use         | 42   | Added sidebar illustrating examples of good transitions   |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 57   | Added reference to maintaining character in sign recommendation E4.B  |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 57   | Clarified small business technical assistance is to be made available to English as a second language businesses in recommen    |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 57   | Clarified fee waivers or deferrals should be available to new and existing small businesses in recommendation E4.E              |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 63   | Added home rehabilitation assistance to Strategy E8.A   |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 63   | Added Strategy E8.E regarding access to programs to help residents stay in their homes  |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 63   | Added Strategies E9.A.3 and E9.A.4 regarding working with non-profit partners and exploring a no net loss policy                |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 63   | Added Strategy E9.D regarding connecting landlords with tenant assistance and rehabilitation programs                           |
| 2 - Economy & Housing | 63   | Added homes to Strategy E9.B.1  |
|                       |      |   |

# **Planning Board Summary**

- Planning Board unanimously approved the East Central Area Plan at the September 2, 2020 meeting with two clarity and correctness conditions
- 7 members of the public spoke in support of the plan, and 3 spoke in opposition





#### 1. Inclusive Community Process

# Finding: The East Central Area Plan was developed through an inclusive public process.





### 2. Plan Consistency





#### Consistency with Comprehensive Plan 2040



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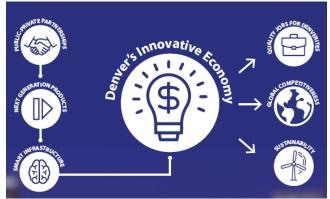






- Equitable, Affordable, & Inclusive
  - 9 Goals, 19 Strategies
- Strong & Authentic Neighborhoods
  - 8 Goals, 21 Strategies
- Connected, Safe, & Accessible
  - 8 Goals, 17 Strategies
- Economically Diverse & Vibrant
  - 4 Goals, 8 Strategies
- Environmentally Resilient
  - 5 Goals, 11 Strategies
- Healthy & Active
  - 5 Goals, 11 Strategies











#### **Consistency with Blueprint Denver**







- Land Use & Built Form (General)
  - 5 Policies, 10 Strategies
- Housing
  - 4 Policies, 6 Strategies
- Economic
  - 5 Policies, 7 Strategies
- Design Quality & Preservation
  - 5 Policies, 17 Strategies

- Mobility
  - 5 Policies, 15 Strategies
- Quality of Life Infrastructure
  - 7 Policies, 19 Strategies

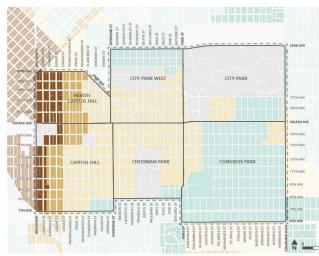




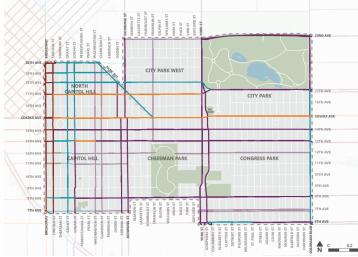


### **Consistency with Blueprint Denver**

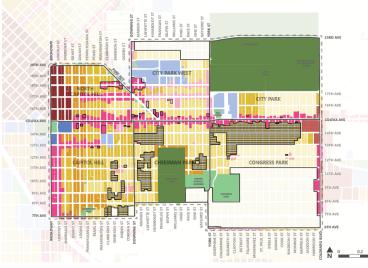
#### Neighborhood Contexts



#### **Future Street Types**



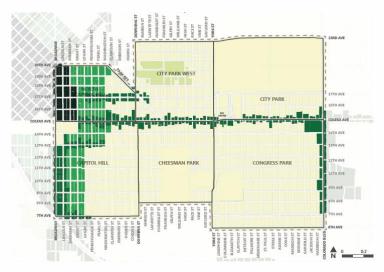
#### **Future Places**



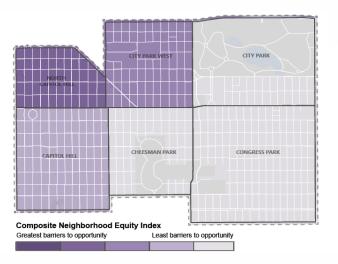
#### **Modal Priority**



#### **Growth Strategy**



#### **Equitable Planning**



#### 2. Plan Consistency

# Finding: The East Central Area Plan is consistent with Comprehensive Plan 2040 and Blueprint Denver.





## **3. Long-Term View**





### 3. Long-Term View

The East Central Area Plan:

- Has a 2040 planning horizon
- Establishes a vision for maintaining the look and feel of established residential neighborhoods
- Directs a majority of growth to centers and corridors in areas that are served by transit
- The vision will take many years to achieve

Finding: The East Central Area Plan has an appropriate long-term perspective.



#### **Staff Recommendation**

# East Central Plan meets the review criteria and is recommended for approval



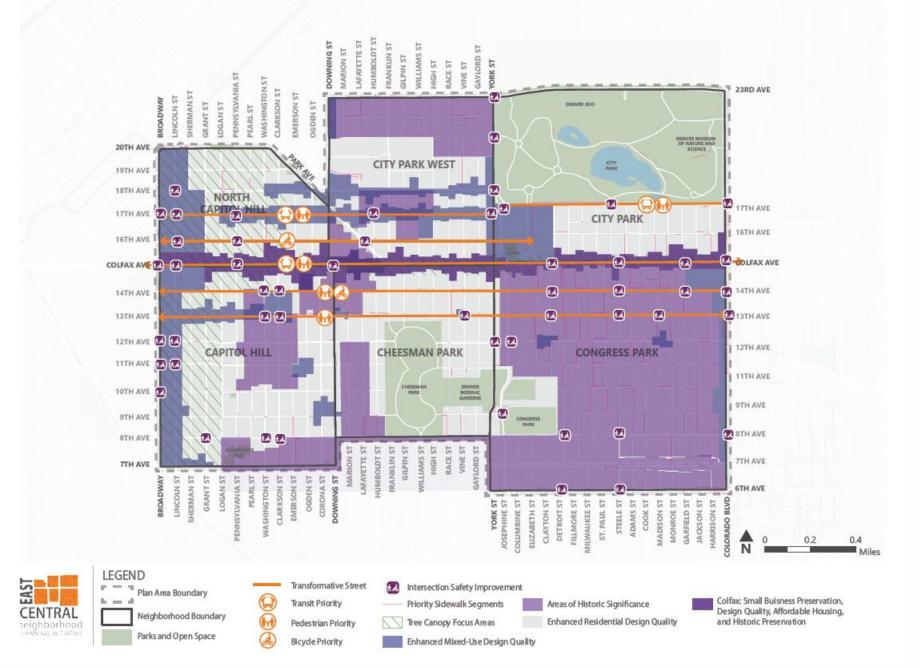


## **Reference Maps**





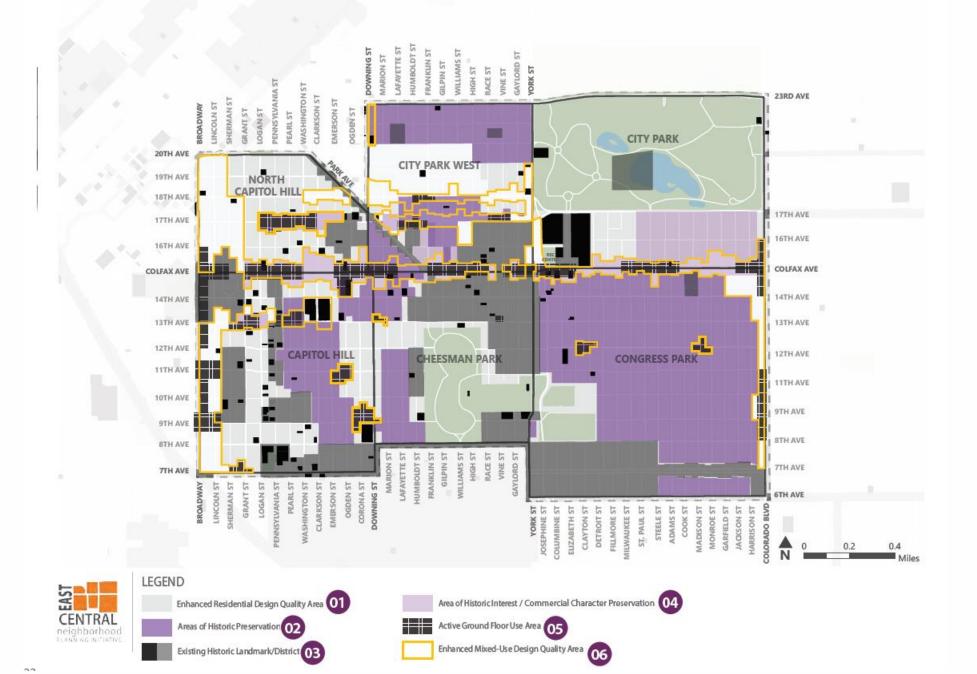
#### **PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS MAP**







#### LAND USE AND BUILT FORM OPPORTUNITY AREAS

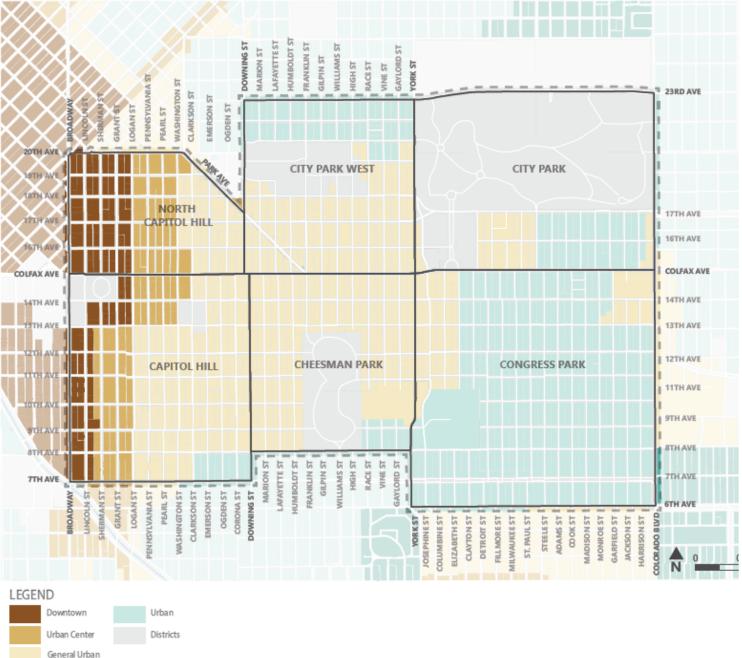




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## **NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXTS**





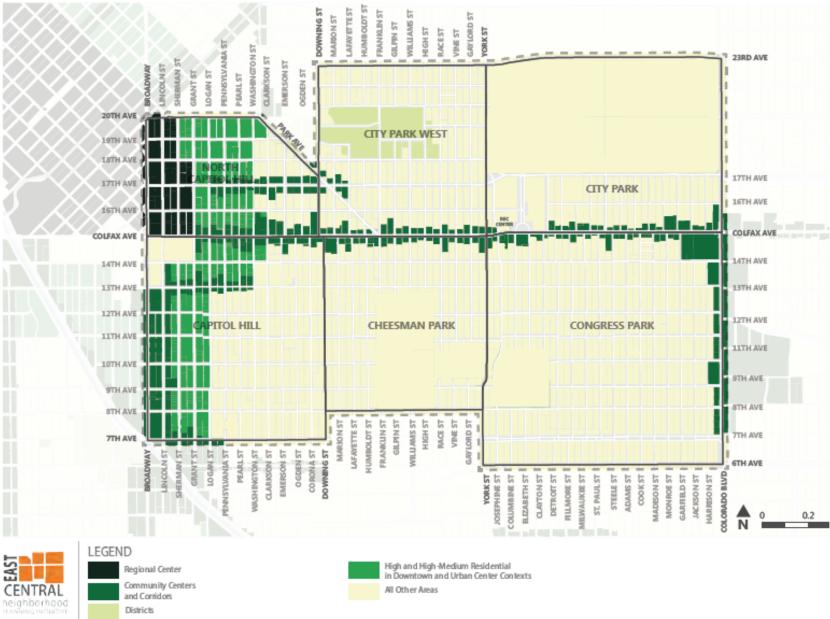






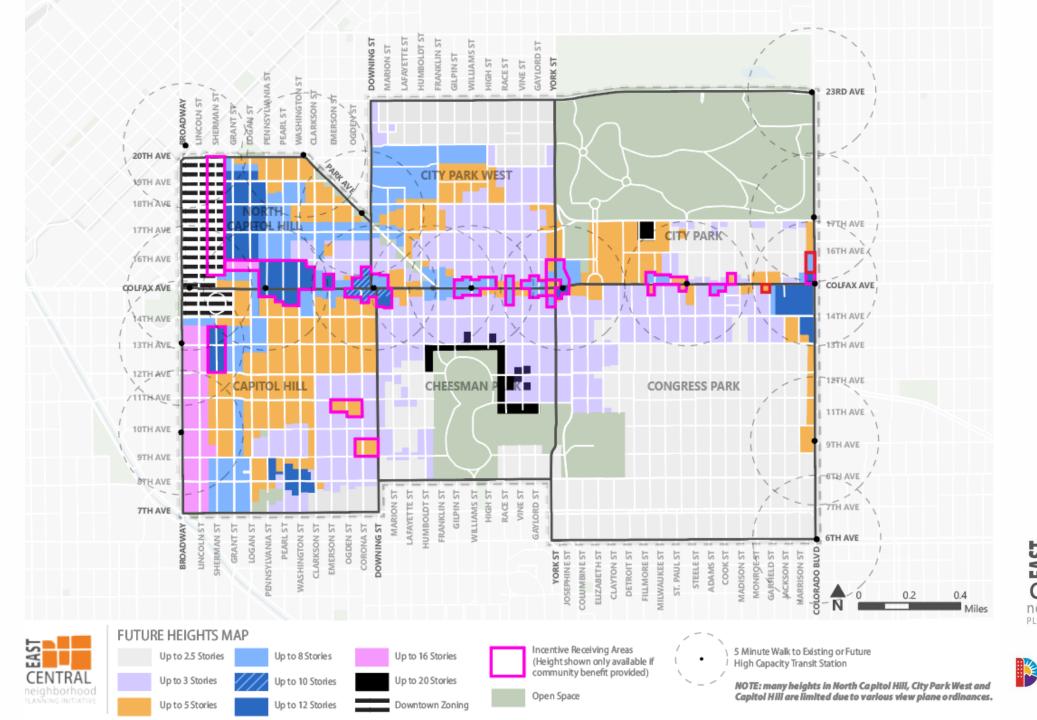


# **GROWTH STRATEGY**





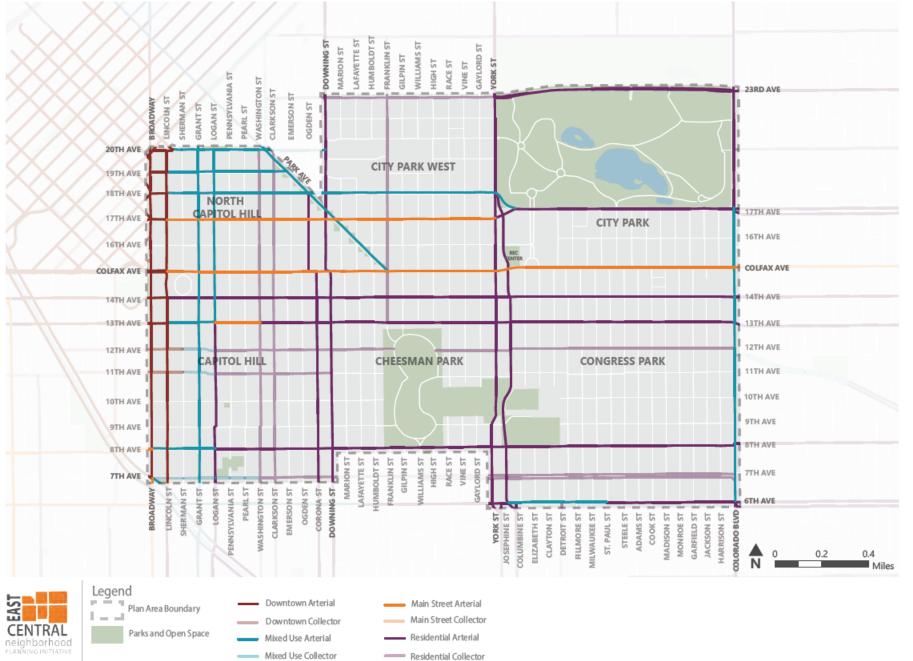






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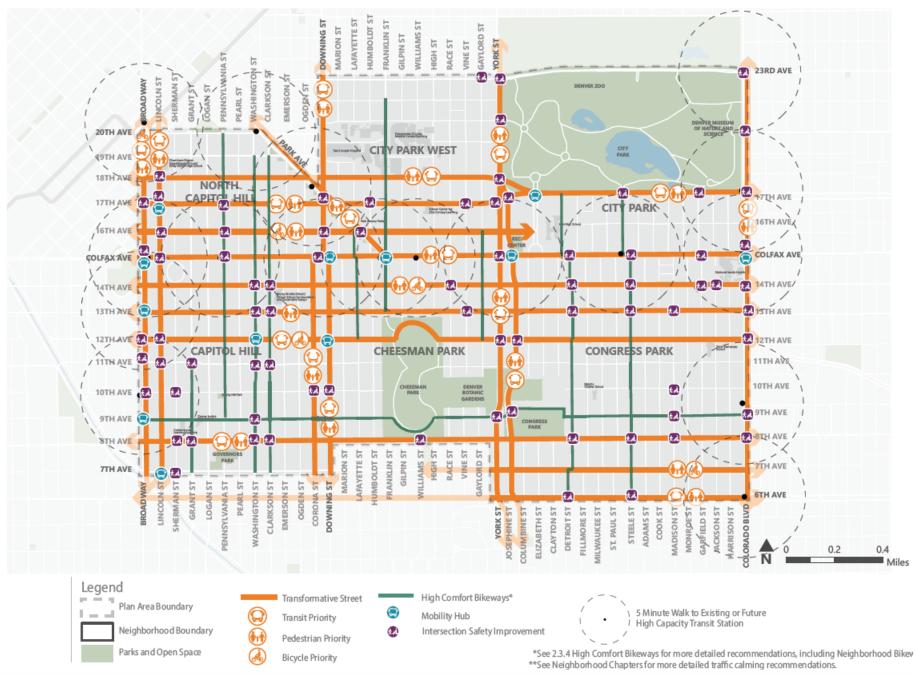
#### **STREET TYPES**





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#### **MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES**

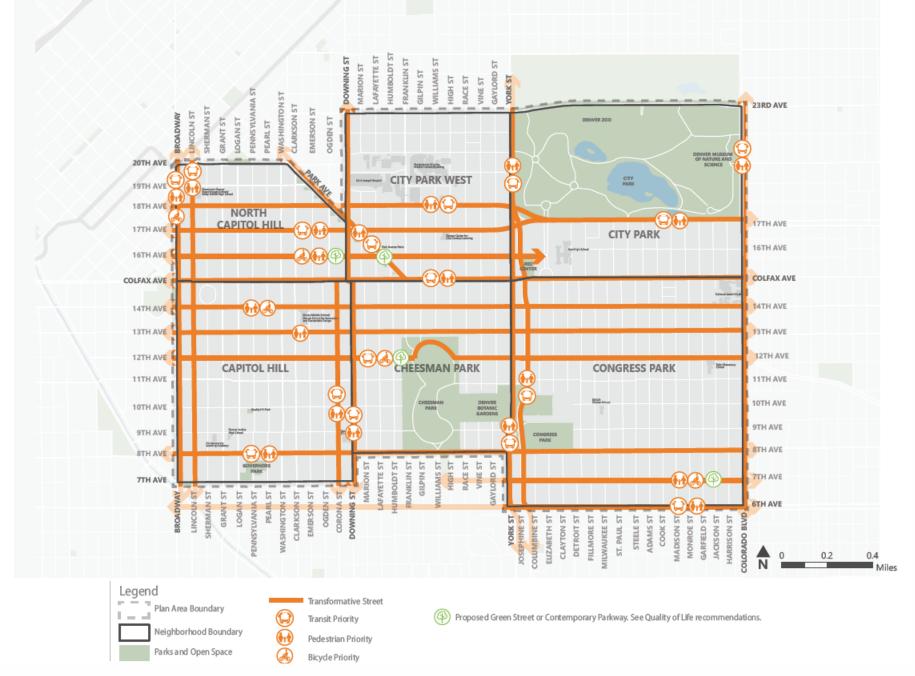




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#### **TRANSFORMATIVE STREET OPPORTUNTIES**

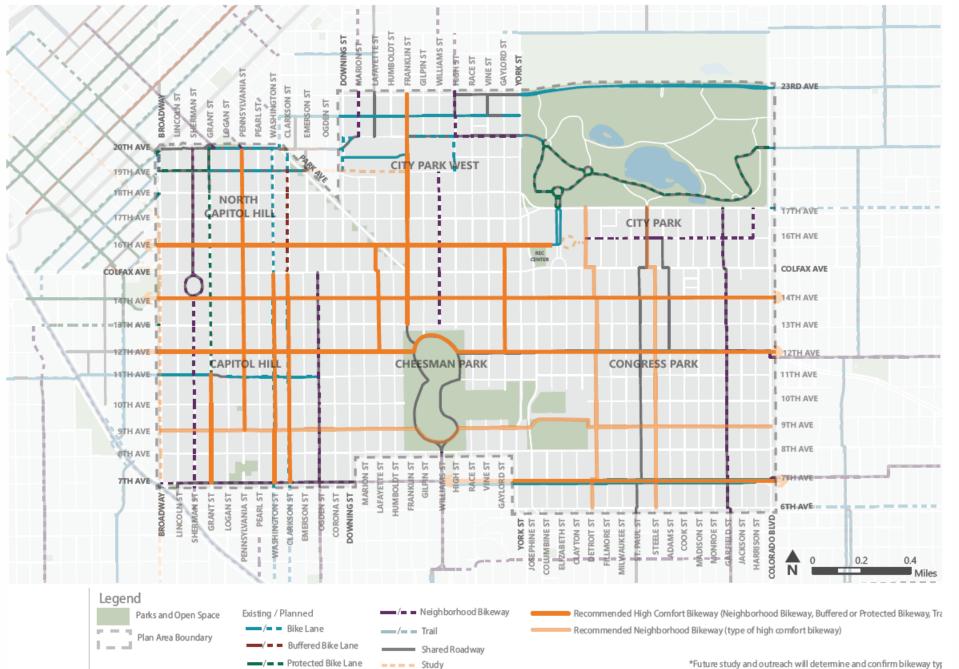




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#### **BIKE NETWORK: EXISTING, PLANNED, AND OPPORTUNITIES**

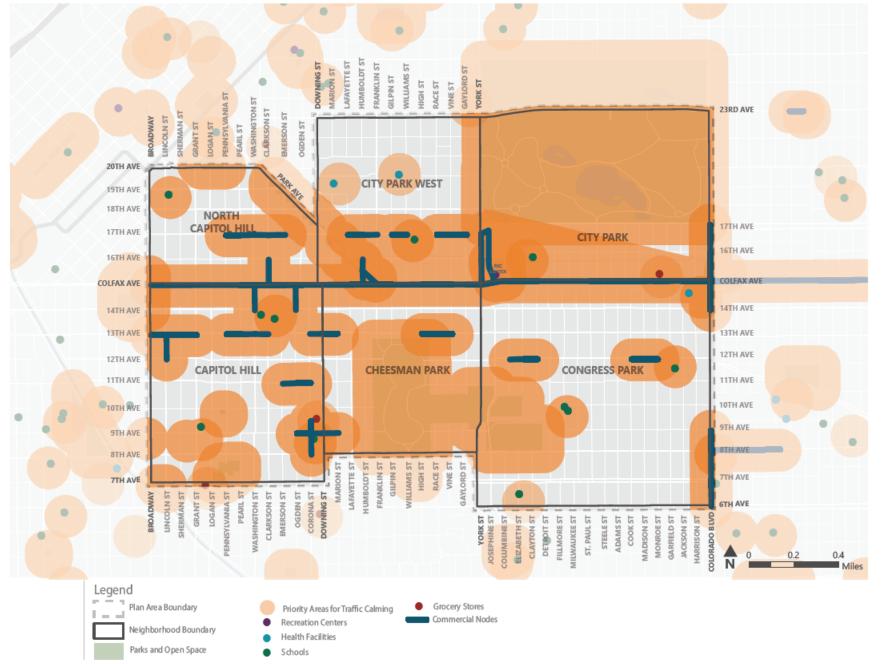




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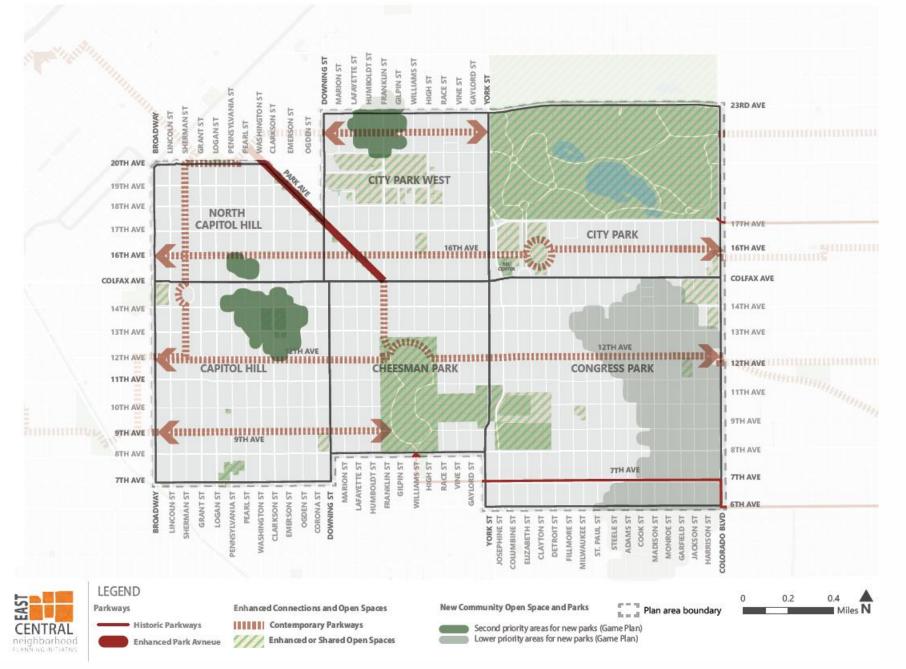
### **NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC CALMING OPPORTUNITIES**





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#### **OPEN SPACE AND CONNECTIONS OPPORTUNITIES**





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### **GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE IN STREETS AND ALLEYS FOR WATER QUALITY CAPTURE**



transformative street recommendations

on 7th Ave., 12th Ave., and 16th Ave.,

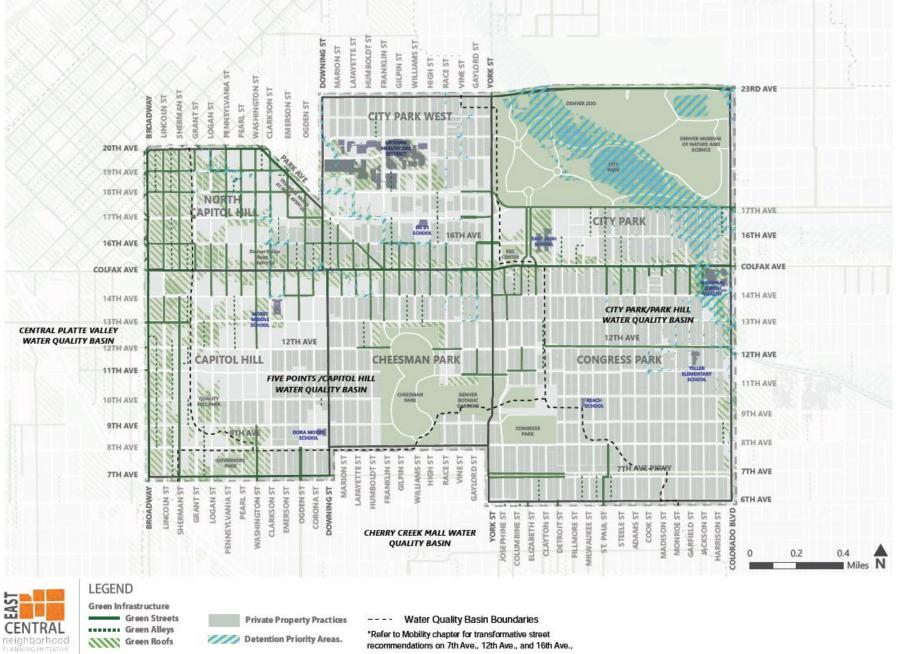
neighborhood

Green Alley Opportunity





#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCY OPPORTUNITIES**





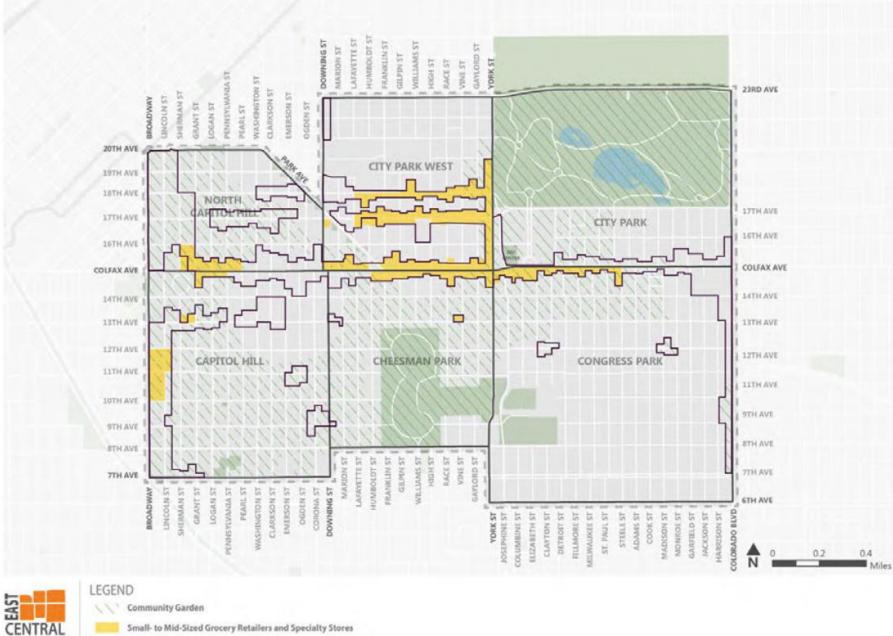
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### **HEALTHY FOOD OPPORTUNITIES**

neighborhood

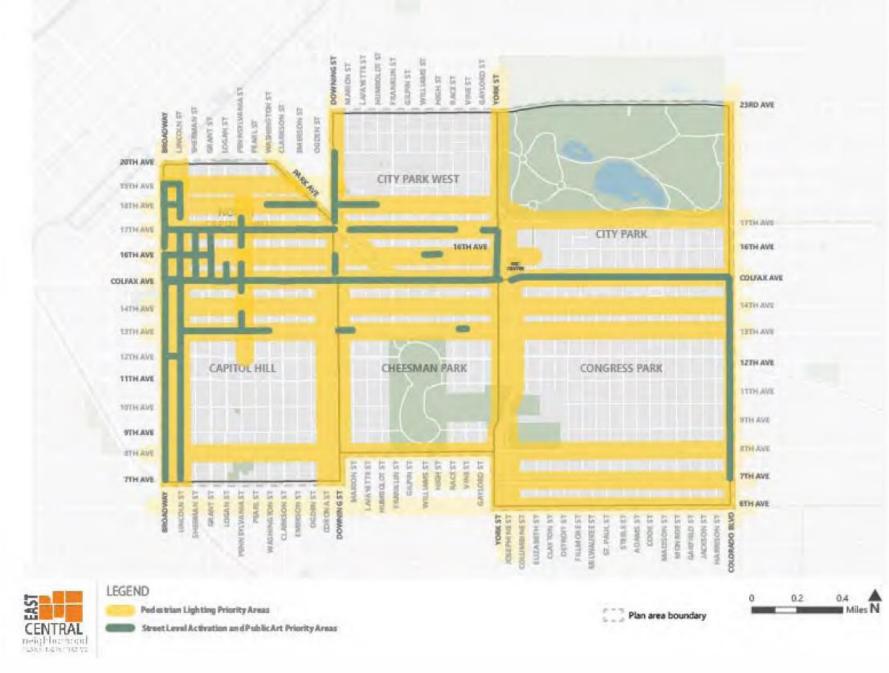
**Healthy Restaurant** 







## **STREET ACTIVATION THROUGH DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES**





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