



Rifle Parks & Recreation

Advisory Board

WORKSHOP & REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

May 12, 2025

5:30 PM

202 Railroad Avenue Rifle, CO 81650

6:00 PM - Workshop

Discussion and Review

- a. Energy and Resilience Action Plan - Presentation

7:00 PM - Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Public Comment** *(Maximum time permitted for Public Comment is 3 minutes per person)
*(Reserved for general comments or items on the agenda that are not a public hearing)
4. **Consent Agenda**
 - 4.a. Consider Minutes of the April 14, 2025, Regular PRAB Meeting
5. **Presentation**
6. **Regular Agenda**
 - 6.a. Mobile Vending Permits - Frostbite Limited
 - 6.b. Consider Adoption of Strategic Plan Priorities and Updates 2025-2026
 - 6.c. Consider a Formal Recommendation to the City Council for the Energy and Resilience Action Plan
7. **Administrative Reports**
8. **Adjournment**

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The City of Rifle values full inclusion and access for all of our facilities, programs, activities and services. We are pleased to provide meaningful accommodations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and reasonably provide translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, auxiliary aids, and services. To request special assistance, call Parks & Recreation Director Austin Rickstrew at 970-665-6578 or email arickstrew@rifleco.org. Please allow 48 hours for your requests to be met.

La Ciudad de Rifle valora la plena inclusión y acceso para todas nuestras instalaciones, programas, actividades y servicios. Nos complace proporcionar alojamientos significativos para cumplir con la Ley de Estados Unidos con Discapacidades (ADA) y proporcionar razonablemente traducciones, interpretaciones, modificaciones, adaptaciones, formatos alternativos, ayudas auxiliares y servicios. Para solicitar asistencia especial, llame al Director de Parques y Recreación Austin Rickstrew al 970-665-6578 o envíe un correo electrónico a arickstrew@rifleco.org. Por favor, permita 48 horas para que se atiendan sus solicitudes.



THE CITY OF RIFLE'S 2025

ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN





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LETTER FROM THE CITY?

DRAFT



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the following individuals and their teams who contributed and were involved in this Energy and Resilience Plan process.

CITY COUNCIL

Sean Strode, Mayor
Chris Bornholdt, Mayor Pro Tem
Joe Carpenter, Councilor
Michael Clancy, Councilor

Alicia Gresley, Councilor
Clint Hostettler, Councilor
Karen Roberts, Councilor

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Helen Rogers, Rifle Planning and Zoning Commission
Betsey Seymor, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Mark Sours, Rifle Housing Authority
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PREPARED BY

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ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	ACRONYM	DEFINITION
AC	- Central air conditioning	HFC	- Hydrofluorocarbons
ADMVT	- Average daily vehicle miles traveled	IWMP	- Middle Colorado River Integrated Water Management Plan
AFDC	- US. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center	kW	- Kilowatts
AMT	- Annual miles traveled	kWh	- Kilowatt Hours
CARE	- Colorado Affordable Residential Energy	LEAP	- Low-income Energy Assistance Program
CDD	- Cooling Degree Days	MSW	- Municipal Solid Waste
CDPHE	- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	MT CO ₂ e	- Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent
CH ₄	- Methane	N ₂ O	- Nitrous oxide
CLEER	- Clean Energy Economy for the Region	PFC	- Perfluorocarbons
CO ₂	- Carbon dioxide	PM _{2.5}	- Particulate matter
CVI	- Climate Vulnerability Index	PPAs	- Power Purchase Agreements
DOLA	- Department of Local Affairs	SASs	- Solar Array Systems
EPA	- Environmental Protection Agency	SF ₆	- Sulfur hexafluoride
ERAP	- Energy and Resilience Action Plan	USCP	- U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of GHG Emissions
FEMA	- Federal Emergency Management Agency	VMT	- Vehicle miles traveled
GHG	- Greenhouse gas	WAP	- Weatherization Assistance Program
GWP	- Global Warming Potential		
HDD	- Heating Degree Days		
HFC	- Hydrofluorocarbons		

ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE BENEFITS OF ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLANNING

This Plan works to align the City of Rifle, its collaborative partners, and community members around shared goals for clean energy and resilience. It addresses the impacts of a changing climate and supports energy efficiency measures that benefit the community. Finally, it works to promote a diverse economy with quality jobs for Rifle community members, focused on local needs and providing residents options to work, live, and play in Rifle.

SNAPSHOT OF RIFLE

Rifle is a growing community located in the Western Slope of Colorado. As of 2023, it has the largest population in Garfield County. Many residents are proud to call Rifle home and value a variety of aspects of the community. Both the ERAP stakeholder group and the public input survey featured questions of what people love about Rifle, and common themes emerged that centered around the “small town feel” and a sense of community, connection, and support.

Major employers in the Rifle area include healthcare, education, construction, and oil and gas development. Ranching and mining have also historically been important parts of the economy in the Rifle region, as well as outdoor recreation. However, over 70% of the employed population commutes outside of Rifle for work.

Energy use	Costs
Residential accounts	\$6,567,665
Commercial accounts	\$6,573,039
Total cost of energy for Rifle community buildings	\$13,140,704

Residents and businesses in Rifle, like many communities, spend a significant portion of their resources on electricity and natural gas. The annual energy bill for Rifle is calculated to be over \$13 million. A key way to reduce these costs and support economic development in Rifle is by improving the energy efficiency of the built environment.

ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN (ERAP) GOALS

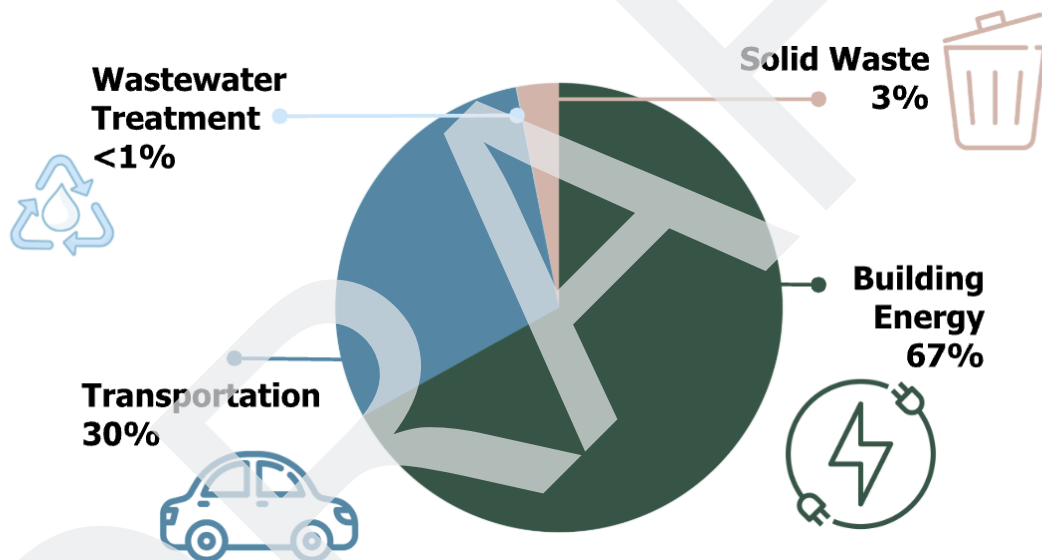
Three overarching goals guide this Energy and Resilience Action Plan. These goals guide the vision of the plan to ensure it is best meeting the City's needs and the priorities identified by the stakeholder group.

- 1. Engage community members in energy and resilience action**
- 2. Provide tangible and achievable recommendations for municipal operations**
- 3. Create options to reduce emissions and improve quality of life for residents**

THE DATA: GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY, SOLAR ANALYSIS, AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

The ERAP employed a data-driven approach to evaluate the City's current status regarding energy use, emissions, and climate resilience. Three tools were utilized for this approach: a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, an analysis of Rifle's current solar production, and a community vulnerability assessment. Their findings help to inform the strategies and action steps identified in the ERAP.

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory: This inventory included utility, transportation, and waste data to develop a baseline for emission reductions. The City of Rifle's greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 totaled 76,209 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e is a CO₂ conversion for other GHGs like methane and nitrous oxide used to simplify calculations). The majority of emissions are from electricity and natural gas use in buildings.



Rifle's transportation emissions were lower than other comparable communities due to the fact that 70% of the employed population leave the City of Rifle and take their emissions with them.

In 2023, the City of Rifle's municipal operations emitted a total of 1190 MT CO₂e. This is lower than similarly sized communities due to the significant portion of electricity supplied by Rifle's solar arrays.

Analysis of Rifle's Current Solar Production: Since 2008, the City of Rifle has prioritized the development of solar energy with the purpose of saving money on their municipal energy costs, increasing energy independence, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Today Rifle is a regional leader in municipal solar production.

For this plan, production data for the City's on-site solar arrays was reviewed to better understand the city's energy independence. Based on solar production statements from the utility, the City's arrays produced over 3 million kWh of electricity in 2023. If this solar production was not in place, operational electricity emissions would be increased by nearly 700 MT CO₂e and electric costs would increase by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Vulnerability assessment: Colorado is getting hotter and drier, and already seeing the effects in our communities, natural landscapes, and local economies. The vulnerability assessment examined demographic information and historic and projected climate data to characterize the impacts that changes may have on the City and its residents. This analysis is valuable to develop plans to protect residents and become more resilient.

The vulnerability assessment found that the impacts of a warming climate are affecting Rifle in the following ways:

- Extreme high temperatures and heat waves are increasing. The projected maximum annual days with temperatures over 95° F is expected to go from less than 10 days in 2005 to over 60 days in 2080.
- Dry periods, defined as the maximum consecutive days with no precipitation, are increasing. There are also fewer frost-free days in the region, which reduces the accumulation of snowpack.
- Wildfires and wildfire smoke are increasing in frequency and intensity.
- Vulnerable populations in Rifle are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change. In addition to other demographics, this can include the elderly, non-English speakers, and people with pre-existing health conditions.
- An increased need for air purification and cooling. Central air systems are the only way to protect occupants from both heat and wildfire smoke exposure.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED: FOCUS AREAS, STRATEGIES, AND ACTION STEPS

The strategies and action steps outlined in this plan are the heart of the energy and resilience action planning effort. They provide a pathway for the City and its partners to benefit residents, businesses, and local governments both now and in the future.

A variety of tools were utilized to develop the strategies in the ERAP. City of Rifle staff recommended actions that were valuable to the City and the broader community based on needs they had identified. Input from stakeholders and the general public was also incorporated through a variety of engagement methods, including three stakeholder workshops, two open house events, and a public input survey.

Four focus areas are featured for the City's energy and resilience action planning effort. These were selected to group the City and the community's needs into useful categories that prioritize important sectors. Goal-oriented strategies were then developed with more specific action steps to provide a roadmap to achieve the plan's goals.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT: residential and commercial buildings and landscapes

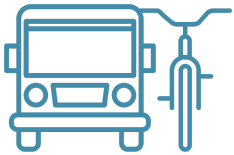
Strategies:



- Improve energy efficiency in buildings citywide
- Reduce water use on properties in the community
- Prepare community assets and infrastructure for extreme weather and natural disasters
- Expand access to cooling and air purification
- Utilize land use principles for conservation of energy and land

TRANSPORTATION: alternative fuels, city fleets, multimodal transportation

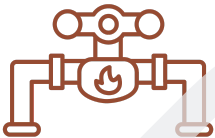
Strategies:



- Encourage biking and walking around the City
- Address impacts of extreme weather to transportation options
- Reduce fuel usage for City fleets
- Enhance community-based transit options
- Support expanded access to EV charging
- Improve traffic flows within the City

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS: solid waste, water and wastewater treatment, municipal facilities

Strategies:



- Increase waste diversion and reduction rates within the City
- Optimize City-owned solar production
- Improve energy efficiency and resilience of water and wastewater treatment infrastructure and distribution
- Reduce energy use in City facilities
- Reduce water use on municipal properties
- Address risks of a warming climate to City facilities
- Implement green infrastructure and shade cover in sites throughout the City

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: workforce and economic diversification

Strategies:



- Provide clean energy and energy efficiency training opportunities for local workforce
- Prioritize local production and small businesses
- Support community and private sector partnerships for economic development
- Invest in clean energy at homes and businesses
- Support workforce health and safety during extreme weather events



INTRODUCTION

- ❖ **BACKGROUND ON RIFLE**
- ❖ **THE BENEFITS OF ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLANNING**
- ❖ **ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLANNING GOALS**
- ❖ **PLANNING PROCESS**
- ❖ **FOCUS AREAS AND STRATEGIES**

BACKGROUND ON RIFLE

The City of Rifle is located in the high desert heart of the Colorado River Valley. With 10,500 people, it has the largest population of the municipalities in Garfield County. Surrounded by the Roan Plateau, the Grand Hogback, and the Flat Tops mountains, Rifle has ample opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Rifle community is growing, both in population and in economic opportunities. Amenities are expanding as well, with offerings like the Ute Theater, more restaurant options, and a new climbing gym.

When asked what they love most about Rifle, residents often answer the “small town feel” and the sense of connection and support. People in Rifle are hardworking and willing to roll up their sleeves.

Rifle has a long history of energy production, including oil and gas development as well as uranium mining and milling. The Old Rifle Mill site, operational beginning in 1924 and ending in the 1960s, was declared a superfund site and has since been remediated. It is now the location of the City’s wastewater treatment plant and one of the larger solar arrays in the County.

Solar energy provides a significant portion of the electricity supply for Rifle’s municipal operations. Rifle is considered a solar leader in the region, with arrays that produced over 3 million kWh of electricity in 2023. Many of these arrays were installed in 2008 and have been offsetting the cost of electricity for the City since that time. Rifle is also subscribed to a portion of community solar through Xcel Energy.

Pond image credit: Paul Gana, [Middle Colorado Watershed Council](#)

Uranium mine image credit: [Energy.gov](#)



THE BENEFITS OF ENERGY¹ AND RESILIENCE² ACTION PLANNING

This Plan works to align the City of Rifle, its collaborative partners, and community members around shared goals for clean energy and resilience. It addresses the impacts of a changing climate, supports energy efficiency measures that benefit the community, and aligns with the City's comprehensive plan. It also works to promote a diverse economy with quality jobs for Rifle community members, focused on local needs and providing residents options to work, live, and play in Rifle.

The benefits of plan development lie not only in the final product, but in the process of developing the plan and its strategies. The project team worked to optimize energy and resilience action planning as a learning opportunity for the community.

It provided a chance for the City and stakeholders to understand energy topics and actively shape their future; including where energy savings can be realized for households, businesses, and governments. Participants learned about resources to advance clean energy and improve resilience to the effects of a warming climate. Stakeholder workshops also helped to increase communication within the City and its partners.

With this plan in place, the City is well-positioned to recruit additional resources for its implementation to benefit its residents, business community, and local government operations. The action steps in the plan catalyze improvements that the City has identified as being beneficial to the people it serves and the natural environment. They will also help manage energy costs citywide and create new economic opportunities.

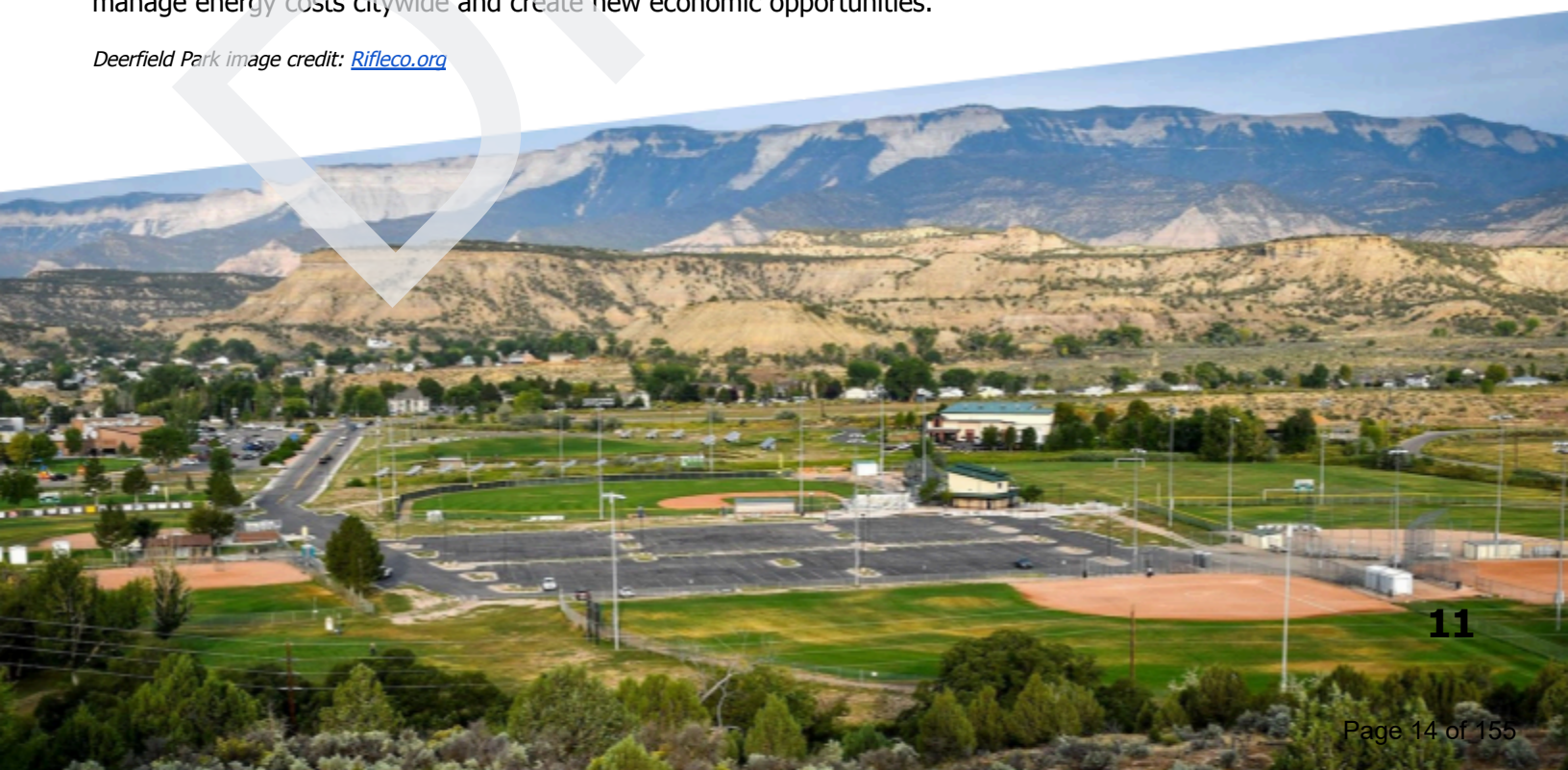
Deerfield Park image credit: Rifleco.org

Energy is the power from something such as electricity or oil that can do work, such as providing light and heat.

In this plan, it refers to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy production and use

Resilience is the ability to successfully adapt to stressors, maintain psychological well-being in the face of adversity. It's the ability to "bounce back" from difficult experiences.

In this plan, it refers to adaptation to the impacts of a warming climate and creating a more diverse and vibrant economy



ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLANNING GOALS

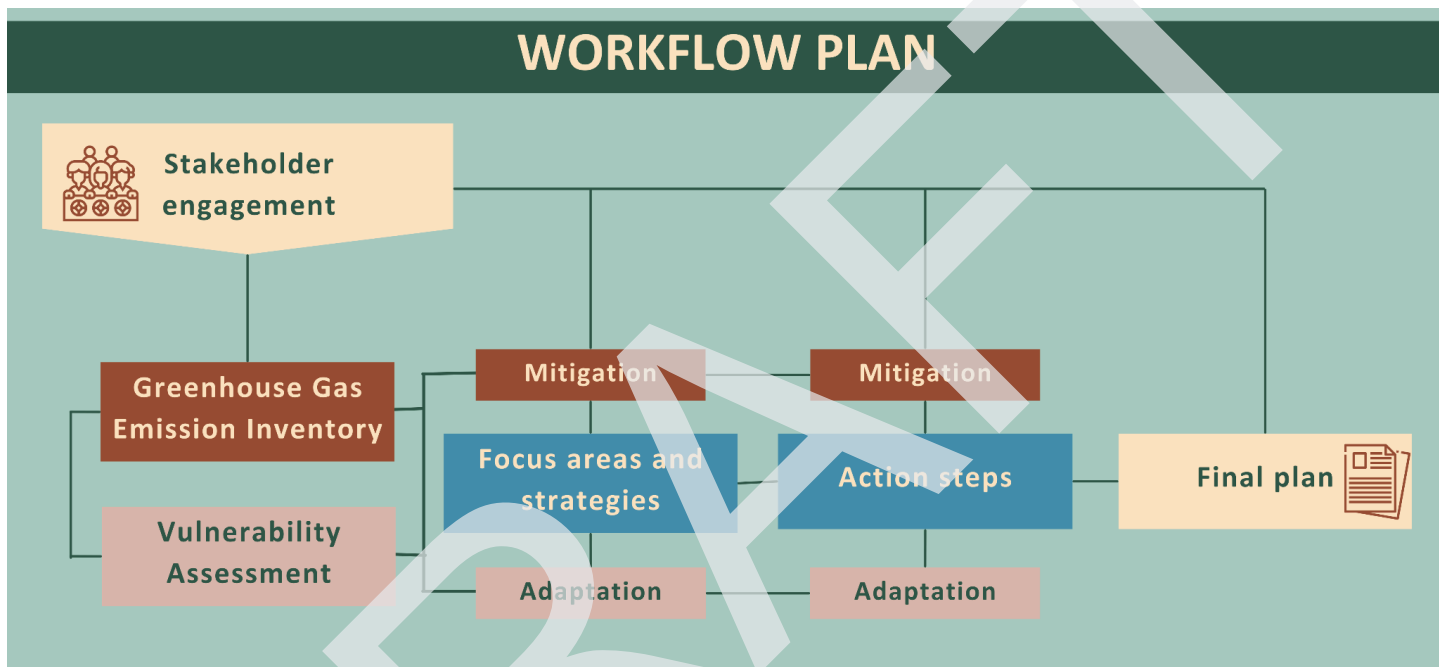
Three overarching goals guide this Energy and Resilience Action Plan. These goals are not quantitative, but rather guide the vision of the plan to ensure it is best meeting the City's needs and the priorities identified by the stakeholder group.

- 1. Engage community members in energy and resilience action**
- 2. Provide tangible and achievable recommendations for municipal operations**
- 3. Create options to reduce emissions and improve quality of life for residents**



PLANNING PROCESS

The project team started off the planning process by developing a set of sector-specific focus areas that best fit the Rifle community and the City's goals for the ERAP. The project team was made up of key City of Rifle staff and the consultant team at CLEER. Concurrently, City staff developed a stakeholder list to ensure the plan represented the voices of community leaders and key sectors. Stakeholders were then able to shape the more specific elements of the plan.



Public input on ERAP priorities was also collected through a public input survey. This survey was open for two months and was advertised widely. Over 100 responses were received, and a variety of ideas were expressed. The data this survey collected was very useful to inform the community's current level of resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

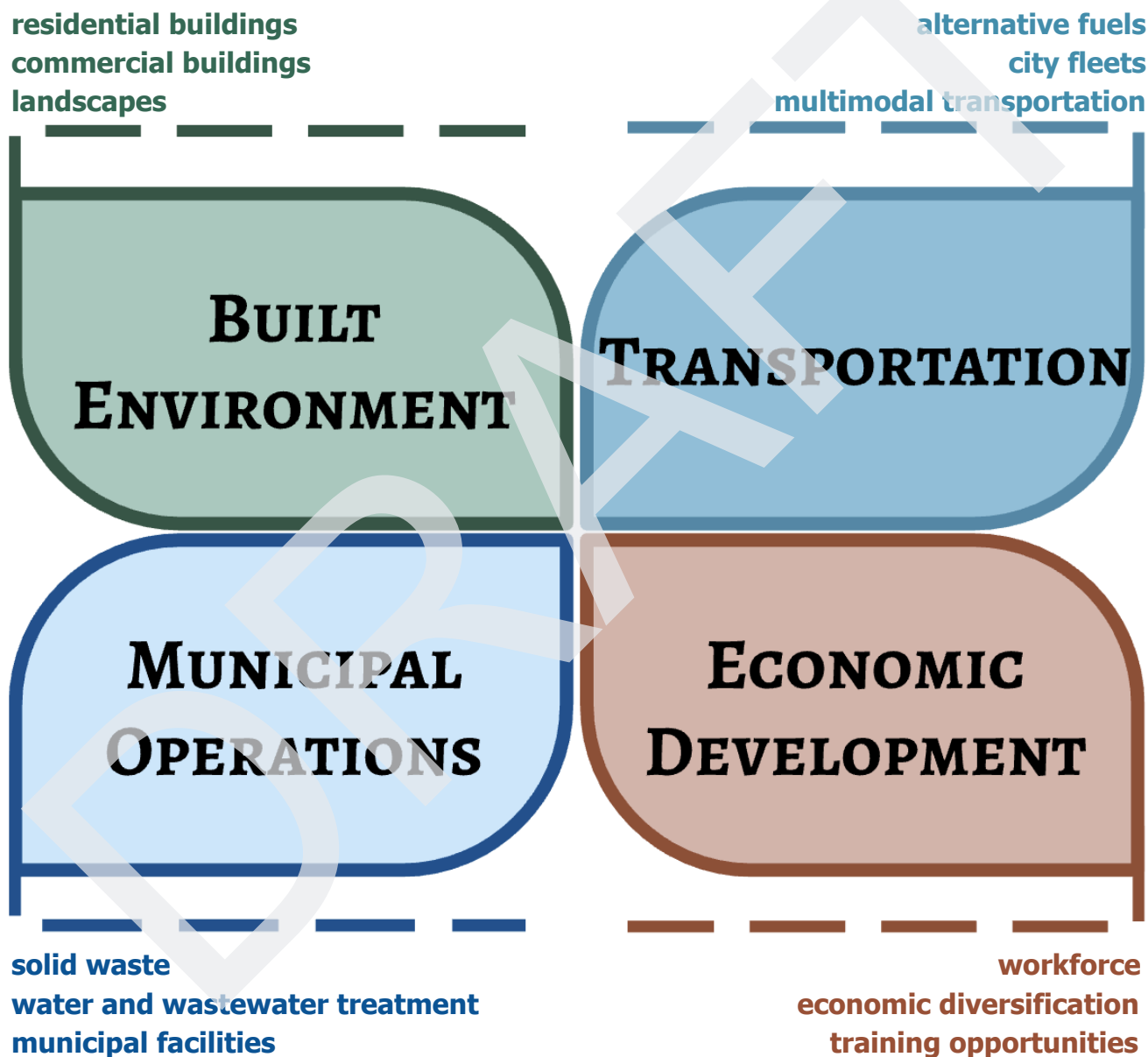
A list of four to seven strategies were developed by the project team and stakeholders for each focus area. These strategies are broad and goal-oriented ways the City and residents can reduce energy use and increase resilience. From the strategies, more specific action steps were identified to provide a tangible pathway to energy and resilience action.

This plan focuses on both the mitigation and adaptation aspects of a changing climate. The mitigation component of the plan started with conducting a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. This established a baseline of the sectors, including residential, commercial, transportation, and waste and water management, that are producing GHG emissions and how much they are contributing. This then informed the strategies to mitigate Rifle's greenhouse gas emissions.

A vulnerability assessment was also conducted to establish a baseline of current and future social, economic, environmental, and infrastructure risks and vulnerabilities. This assessment helped the project team to identify adaptation priorities, goals, and strategies for increasing adaptive capacity and climate resilience.

FOCUS AREAS AND STRATEGIES

Four focus areas were identified by the project group to organize and guide this planning effort. These areas encompass a variety of sectors for the City and its partners to address in their progress towards the ERAP implementation.



Strategies and action steps are listed in detail in the “Where we’re headed” section of this plan. It is important to note that some of the strategies identified are under the City of Rifle’s purview, while others are collaborative and intended to be implemented by partners. Implementation partners were included in the stakeholder engagement process to provide input on steps that they may have a role in.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

DRAFT

- ❖ **STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**
- ❖ **SNAPSHOT OF RIFLE**
 - **RIFLE DEMOGRAPHICS**
 - **RIFLE HOUSING AND WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT**
 - **WHAT PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT RIFLE**

Characteristics of a community are valuable to inform the most effective and unique approaches to energy and resilience action. This section describes demographic and energy use data for the City of Rifle as well as input from community members that helped to inform the findings of the ERAP.

STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Early in plan development, the project team compiled a list of key leaders to serve as stakeholders and represent the various sectors of the Rifle community that impact or are impacted by energy use and resilience. 20 stakeholders attended at least one of three workshops hosted in the City of Rifle. These included City Council and advisory boards and commissions, educational institutions, public health and healthcare, senior and housing services, local utility providers, local nonprofits, and the business community. Their input is reflected throughout this plan, including in the section below and in the strategies and action steps that were developed.



The broader public also had the opportunity to provide input on planning efforts through a public input survey. This survey was open for two months and had 101 responses. Input was also encouraged at two events: a “Plan Jam” open house which drew 30 attendees, and a tabling setup at Hometown Holidays.

A more extensive report of stakeholder and public engagement is available in Appendix A.

Deerfield Park image credit: Rifleco.org



SNAPSHOT OF RIFLE

Rifle is a rural but expanding municipality located in Garfield County on the Western Slope of Colorado. As of the 2023 census data, it has the largest population of all towns in Garfield County. Rifle is surrounded by the Roan Plateau, the Flat Top mountains, and Mamm Peak. The Colorado River winds through the valley, providing both the City's drinking water source and a variety of recreational opportunities.

Residents and visitors alike enjoy the variety of outdoor recreation options in and around Rifle. Rifle Mountain Park has been a world-class rock climbing destination for many years, and the City has worked with local partners to expand mountain biking trail networks. Hunting and fishing are also very popular and an important economic driver for Rifle.

Downtown Rifle offers a western, small-town atmosphere, with antique shops, dining, and historic museums. Rifle is also a regional economic center, and an ideal location to draw ideas, intellectual capital, and investments to the region.

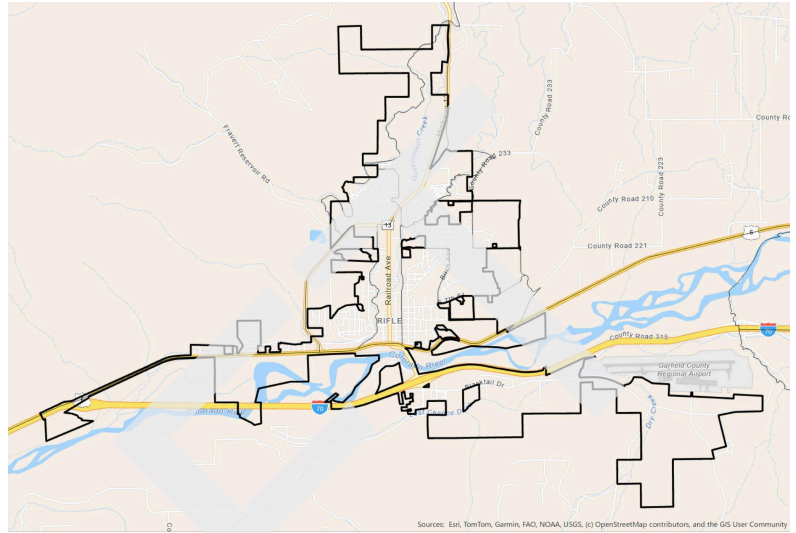


Figure 1. Map of Rifle



RIFLE DEMOGRAPHICS

Residents of the City are increasingly diverse and bring vibrant cultural differences with them. Below are some featured demographic statistics about the Rifle community. These characteristics help us understand the unique environment in Rifle that shapes its energy landscape and how to support the resiliency of residents and businesses.

Rifle demographics 2022	
Population	10,500
Median household income	\$72,900
Median sale price 2024	\$539,000
% owner-occupied housing	46%
% of Garfield County population	17%
Growth over last 5 years	6%



Children:

Rifle has a high percentage of families. Nearly 40% of households have children under 18 years of age, and 8.3% of the population are children under 5 years old.

Older adults:

About 9.4% of community members are greater than 64 years old.

Disabled:

About 8.7% of Rifle's population have a disability.

Unemployment and commuters:

Only 3.2% of Rifle's labor force is unemployed. However, of Rifle's employed adult population, over 70% leave the community for work.

Communities of color:

43.7% identify as non-white or more than one race. 30% of Rifle residents speak a language other than English at home, and of that portion over 40% speak English less than very well.

Living alone:

Only 4% of households in Rifle consist of 1 person.

Outdoor workers:

Approximately 9.4% of jobs held by Rifle residents are in construction, natural resources, and maintenance operations who tend to work outdoors.

Pre-existing medical conditions:

8.6% of the Rifle population are identified as having pre-existing conditions which include asthma, diabetes, coronary heart disease, and hypertension that could predispose them to climate change effects.

Education:

Rifle's population of adults over 25 include 18% that have a bachelor's degree or higher. About 35% have a high school or equivalent degree, with 13.5% of adults over 25 with less than a high school diploma.

U.S. Census Bureau data: [Rifle](#) and [Garfield County](#)
Image credit: Rifle, Colorado Facebook page

RIFLE HOUSING AND WORKFORCE SNAPSHOT

RIFLE HOUSING

As housing costs increase throughout the region, more people are moving into areas like Rifle which has a comparatively cheaper cost of living. Amenities and opportunities in Rifle are also continuing to expand, further encouraging more people to relocate there. In a 2024 article in Forbes magazine, Rifle was reported to be 13th in the nation for housing cost increases. The median home price had increased 339% since 2004.

The affordability and availability of housing matters for energy and resilience action. Lowering energy burdens for residents helps to make housing more affordable. Higher housing costs require residents to commute further distances to their jobs, which increases greenhouse gas emissions and the risks associated with driving. Sufficient housing stock can also make a community more resilient to natural disasters and other disruptions.

Because this plan aims to enhance the liveability of Rifle, there is also a focus on the quality of housing and neighborhoods. Stakeholders were asked in a workshop, "what makes a dream house or home for you?" This question was intended to get the group thinking about what makes housing desirable for current and prospective residents. They stated:

- Family, friends, neighbors, and community
- Big, open kitchen
- Close to downtown
- Access to trails, parks, and waterways

Image credit: [ColoradoProperty.com](https://www.coloradoproperty.com)



ENERGY USE IN RIFLE

Rifle is primarily served by Xcel Energy for both electricity and natural gas services. Xcel Energy’s electricity grid serving Rifle is getting cleaner; in 2023, Xcel Energy reported a 43% renewable energy supply. This notably impacts greenhouse gas emissions. As the grid gets cleaner, emissions go down as well.

Energy use	Costs
Residential accounts	\$6,567,665
Commercial accounts	\$6,573,039
Total cost of energy for Rifle community buildings	\$13,140,704

The total cost of the energy required by the community represents a significant amount of money that could be used for other expenses or put back into the economy. The annual energy bill for Rifle is calculated to be over \$13 million. A key way to reduce these costs and support economic development in Rifle is by improving the energy efficiency of households and businesses.

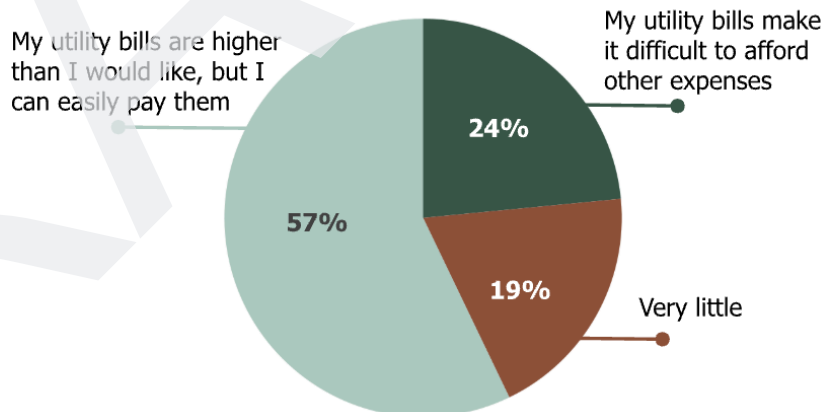
Figure 2. Table detailing the Rifle community’s energy cost. Data from [Xcel Energy’s community energy report](#)

Electric and natural gas bills can be burdensome for lower or even moderate-income residents in Garfield County. The ERAP public input survey found that nearly a quarter of respondents and business owners felt that their utility bills made it difficult to afford other expenses. Over half said that their utility bills were higher than they would like.

Figure 3. Pie chart of survey responses to the question “How much do electric and natural gas bills affect your monthly personal budget?”

Solar array image credit: Garfield Clean Energy

How much do electric and natural gas bills affect your monthly personal or business budget?



A HISTORY OF CLEAN ENERGY IN RIFLE

Leadership at the City of Rifle began to prioritize the development of clean energy projects with the installation of their solar arrays in 2008. In 2009, the City was an integral part of the formation of the Garfield County New Energy Communities Initiative, which became the Garfield Clean Energy Collaborative (GCE) in 2012.



The Garfield Clean Energy is a local government collaborative with membership that includes every municipality in Garfield County, Garfield County government, the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, and Colorado Mountain College. Holy Cross Energy and Garfield County Libraries are affiliate members. Rifle has been an active participant in GCE over the years.

Garfield Clean Energy's vision is to be an innovative leader in advancing energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to protect the environment and build a strong, resilient and diverse economy. GCE provides services to Rifle and countywide through programs like ReEnergize Garfield County, a one-stop-shop residential energy efficiency incentive program. Commercial buildings can also receive free energy coaching. The Collaborative works to increase use of multimodal transportation such as biking, walking, and transit, as well as EV charging infrastructure and adoption. GCE has also supported the installation of local solar power and is currently working to expand the feasibility of geothermal power and thermal energy networks in Garfield County.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND WORKFORCE

Major employers in the Rifle area include healthcare, education, construction, and oil and gas development. Ranching and mining have also historically been important parts of the economy in the Rifle region, as well as outdoor recreation. The City of Rifle and its partners recognize that renewable energy is a valuable economic diversification opportunity. In 2005, the City Council adopted the Rifle Economic Opportunities Assessment, which included a Rifle Energy Innovation Centers. This facility would serve as a highly visible showcase for economically implementable alternative power sources, such as solar.

In one of the stakeholder workshops, the group was asked what they liked most about working in their role. This question was intended for stakeholders to get to know each other, but also to help them identify what makes a high-quality job opportunity. Their responses were:

- Interactions with different customers, citizens, and groups
- Serving the community
- People who are willing to "roll up their sleeves"
- Variety and engagement

WHAT PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT RIFLE

Many residents are proud to call Rifle home and value a variety of aspects of the community. Both the ERAP stakeholder group and the public input survey featured questions of what people love about Rifle, and many of the same themes came up across both engagement processes. Responses included:

- The small town, “Western Slope” feel that it is family-friendly
- A sense of community, connection, and support
- Residents are hard-working, forward-thinking, resourceful and proactive
- Access to outdoor recreation including mountain biking and hiking trails, parks and open spaces, rivers and fishing, and hunting
- Local amenities such as community events, the Ute Theater, restaurants, and the downtown area



Some concerns and challenges were also mentioned in the public input survey, including homelessness and safety issues as well as the limited entertainment options, especially in winter.

Children also had an opportunity to answer the question “What makes Rifle the best?” by coloring their responses on a poster at a Hometown Holidays event where the consultant team tabled to gather community input.



Figure 4. Poster with input from children from Rifle, taken at Hometown Holidays

WHERE WE ARE NOW

THE DATA

DRAFT

- ❖ **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY**
- ❖ **ANALYSIS OF RIFLE'S CURRENT SOLAR PRODUCTION**
- ❖ **VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**

THE DATA

This information is essential to best understand where Rifle stands regarding the impacts of climate on the community, as well as what type of impact any changes may have on Rifle's long-term resilience. For more detailed reports on each of these analyses, see appendices B and C.

Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) inventory:

Uses utility, transportation, and waste data to develop an emissions baseline. Using EPA's protocol, this is a community-wide inventory, with secondary accounting for municipal emissions. The baseline year for the inventory is 2023.

Solar production report:

A review of the production data for the City's on-site solar PV systems.

Vulnerability assessment report:

Identifies how exposed Rifle is (as a physical location, a community of people, and a government system) to the impacts of a changing climate. The report utilized *demographic* data (such as age, income, and health indicators) and *climate* data (such as temperature, extreme weather and drought) to evaluate risks and Rifle's adaptive capacity to respond to risk.

Image credit: Clean Energy Economy for the Region

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Is the capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to and recover from a disruption.

[US Climate Resilience Toolkit, NOAA, 2021]

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY SUMMARY

The City of Rifle’s greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 totaled **76,209 MT CO₂e** (metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent). CO₂e is a standard equivalent conversion for other GHGs like methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). The majority of GHG emissions in Rifle come from building energy use and ground transportation. Detailed data for the inventory may be found in Appendix B.

WHAT ARE GREENHOUSE GASES (GHGs) AND WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

GHGs are compounds in the Earth’s atmosphere that trap heat, helping to regulate the planet’s climate. While gases like CO₂ are the most widely known, others — including CH₄ and N₂O — also play major roles. Methane is over 25 times more effective at trapping heat than CO₂. GHGs occur naturally, but human activities are increasing emissions, amplifying the greenhouse effect and changing our climate.

The buildup of GHG emissions, such as CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O, is increasing the Earth’s average surface temperature, intensifying the greenhouse effect. This warming disrupts atmospheric circulation patterns and increases the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, prolongs droughts, creates powerful storms and severe floods, and can contribute to increased frequency of widespread wildfires. Climate impacts pose significant risks to ecosystems, public health, and critical infrastructure. See the Rifle Vulnerability Assessment Appendix C for more details.

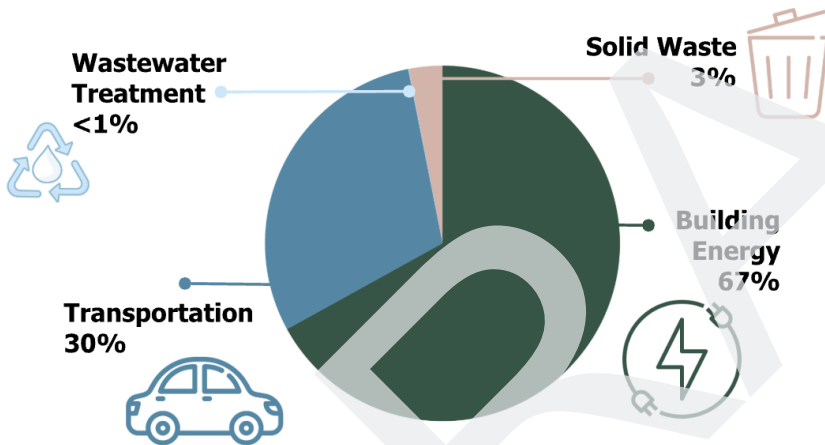
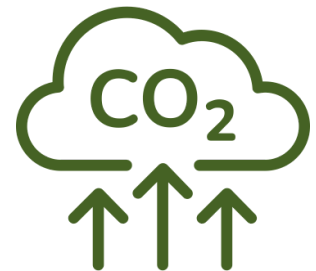


Figure 5. Rifle community-wide emissions pie chart

RIFLE’S EMISSIONS IN PERSPECTIVE

Every year, humans emit about 50–60 billion metric tons of CO₂e worldwide. The Rifle 2023 GHG Inventory (covering the community, not just municipal operations) showed approximately 76,209 MT CO₂e emitted. This could be compared to:

- **Cars:** Driving over 16,500 gasoline cars on the road for 10,000 miles a year
- **Flying:** Similar to taking about 8,200 round-trip flights between New York City and London



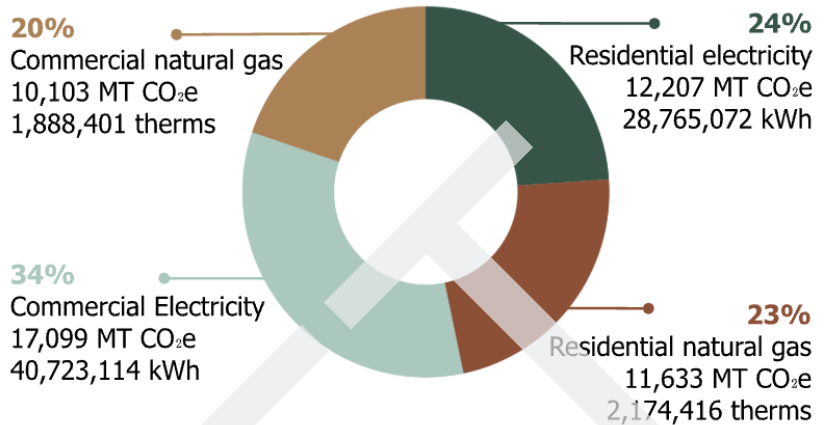
Alternatively,

- **Planting Trees:** Planting 1.25 million trees (grown for 10 years) can remove the same amount of emissions

BUILT ENVIRONMENT: 67%

The buildings accounted for building emissions totaling **51,042 MT CO₂e**, or 67% of Rifle's emissions. The team collected utility data from 3,800 residential accounts and 870 commercial accounts. Breaking the data down further shows the contribution from natural gas and electricity by customer type.

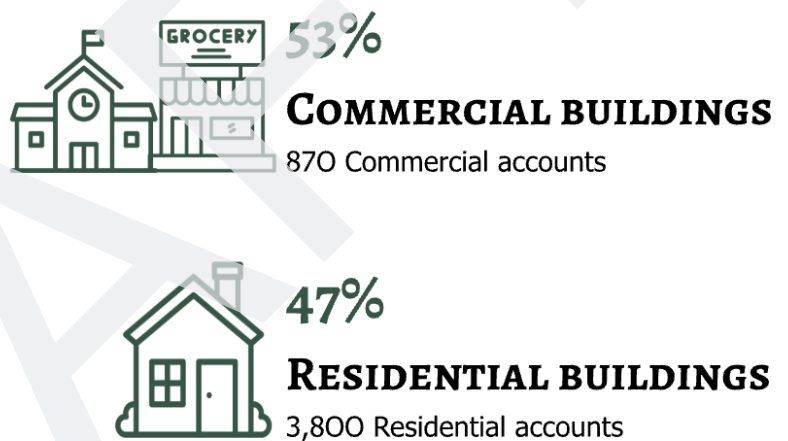
Figure 6. Community-wide building emissions for commercial and residential energy use by fuel source



BUILDING EMISSIONS

All buildings use energy. When calculating emissions, building emission data comes from the utilities through the electricity and natural gas used by all utility accounts. These are broken down by residential accounts, which are made up primarily of single-family homes and apartments, and by commercial accounts, which include government buildings, schools, and businesses.

Figure 7. Percentage of community-wide emissions for commercial and residential energy use and account totals



TRANSPORTATION: 30%

Rifle's transportation emissions total **22,807 MT CO₂e**, or 30% of Rifle's total emissions in 2023. It's important to acknowledge that while the 2023 Rifle GHG Inventory shows that transportation comprises 30% of overall emissions and that this % has limitations presenting actual community context.

The US Community Protocol (USCP) methodology attributes vehicle emissions in the jurisdictions where the fuel is burned and not necessarily where the vehicle originated. 70% of Rifle's employed population commutes outside of Rifle for work - often for long distances. GHG inventories in some neighboring communities have counted the emissions from vehicle trips that originate in Rifle. However, the emissions counted only include the vehicle's mileage while traveling through that jurisdiction and not the entirety of the trip. This means that the majority of Rifle's commuter emissions are counted elsewhere.

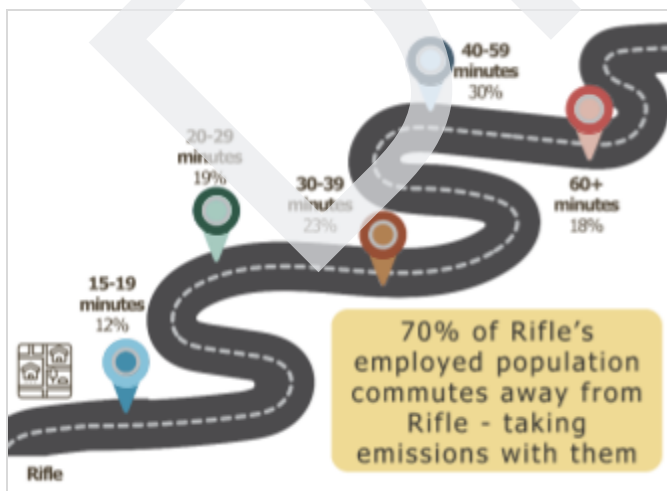


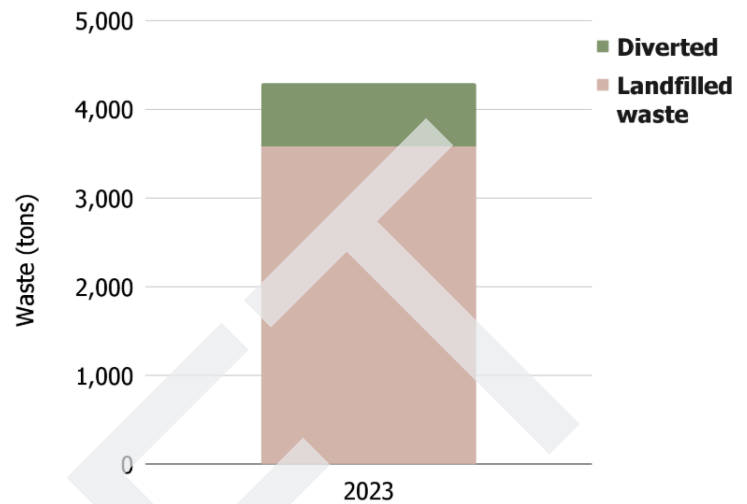
Figure 8. Commuting residents and their travel times

WASTE: 3%

Waste makes up the remaining 3% of emissions at **2,360 MT CO₂e**. This sector includes both wastewater treatment processes and solid waste.

Solid waste, or trash, emissions are the bulk of the total at 2324 MT CO₂e. The total tonnage of solid waste hauled from Rifle came to 4295 tons. Of that 718 tons, 17%, were diverted to be recycled. This percentage is slightly greater than the state average of 16%.

Figure 9. Breakdown of Rifle's waste disposed of at the landfill vs the amount recycled



SUB-DATA: MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Collected data for Rifle includes the City-owned buildings and facilities, vehicle fleet, and water and wastewater treatment facilities. The municipal operations data for the City was analyzed in addition to the community-level data to provide a more complete picture for the City. In 2023, Rifle's municipal operations emissions totaled **1190 MT CO₂e**. This total is lower than in other similar communities due to many factors. One factor contributing to the low emissions is the large amount of solar in Rifle, some of which provides electricity for municipal operations buildings.

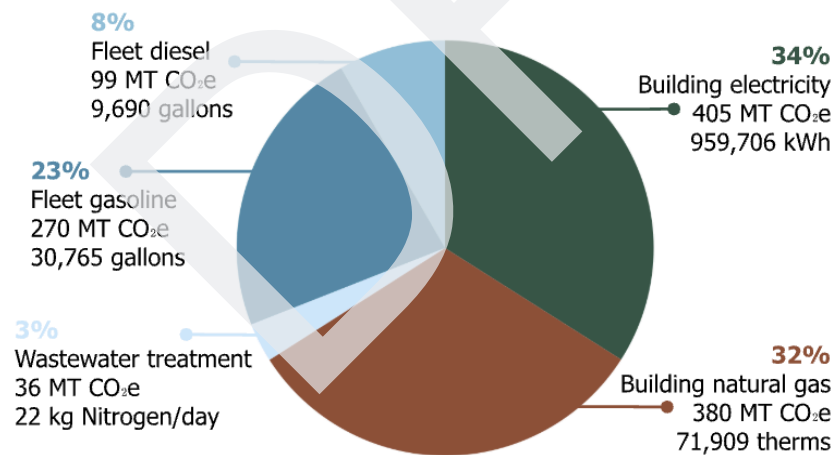


Figure 10. Municipal operations emissions by sector pie chart

RIFLE CITY GOVERNMENT

STATISTICS:

- ❖ 58 electric accounts and 12 natural gas accounts for buildings, water pumps and street lights
- ❖ 173 fleet vehicles
- ❖ 10 solar arrays at 9 locations

ANALYSIS OF RIFLE'S CURRENT SOLAR PRODUCTION

Renewable energy plays a significant role in energy supply and emissions reductions for Rifle. Beginning in 2008, the Rifle government made the decision to develop several solar arrays in partnership with third-party funding entities through a mechanism called power purchase agreements (PPAs). These PPAs allowed the City to invest in significant solar arrays with affordable payment plans.

As part of this study, an analysis was conducted on the solar production of the City's on-site solar arrays for the ERAP. This analysis examined the utility-level data available for each solar array, reviewed the PPA contract details, and provided recommendations for the next steps to enhance production, monitoring, and ownership. In some cases, the review identified potential discrepancies between the utility data and the reported solar usage for specific buildings.

The solar arrays, which were projected to provide an astounding 2,775 kW capacity when installed, support the partial offset of electricity emissions for the City's government buildings. Based on solar production statements from the utility, the City's arrays produced over 3 million kWh of electricity in 2023. This amount does not offset all of the City's energy due to details in the PPA agreement related to the allocation of renewable energy credits. Of the 3 million kWh produced, just over half, 1.7 million kWh, are used directly by the City buildings before energy is sent to

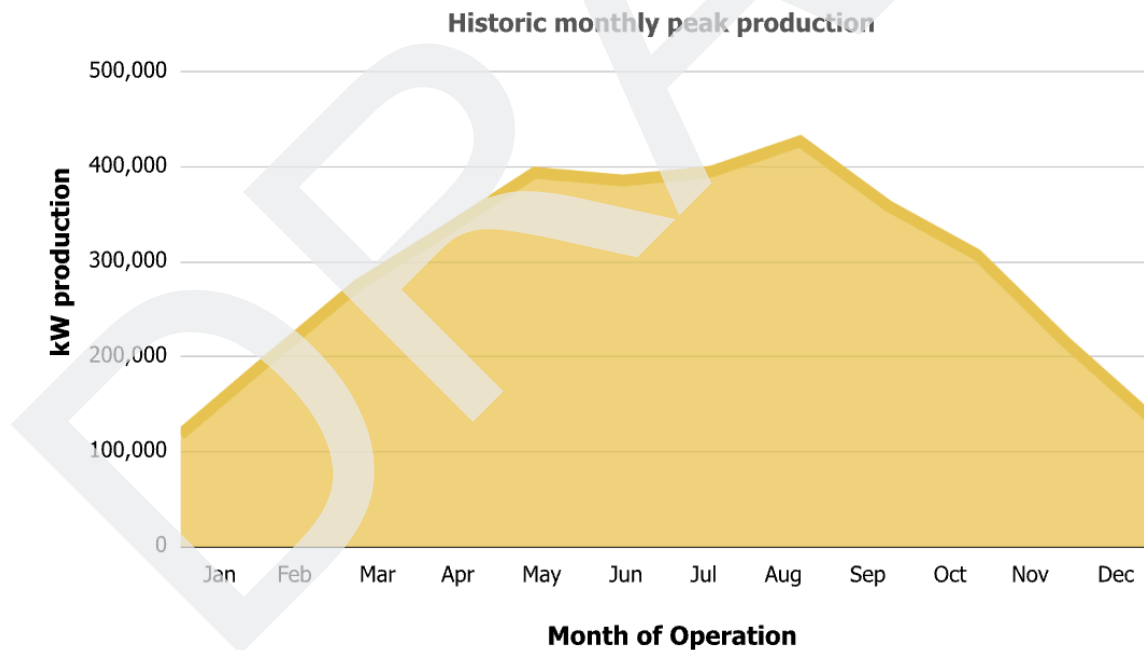


Figure 11. Historic Monthly peak production for a year's timeframe

the electric grid. As a result, the solar energy does reduce the City's utility bills and the emissions associated with the offset energy. If the city did not have solar, operational electricity emissions would be increased by nearly 700 MT CO₂e, and electric costs would increase by hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

RIFLE ONSITE SOLAR

LOCATION	SIZE (kW)	INTERCONNECTION DATE
Wastewater treatment plant	1720	2009
Water treatment pumping station	600	2008
City Hall	140.5	2014
Police Department and Courts building	140	2010-2013
Parks maintenance building and Ball field	73.8	2010-2013
Rifle Taughenbaugh water pumping station	42	2013
Operations and Maintenance Shop	34	2010-2014
Rifle South water pumping station	15	2013
Rifle Rosehill Cemetery	9.6	2013
Total solar capacity	2,775	

Figure 12. Rifle's solar array locations and size, in kW. A date range indicates multiple phases of installation and may include more than one array on site.

In addition to the on-site solar arrays, the City has eight buildings subscribed to community solar through Xcel Energy. This subscription covers 1.4 mWh, or about half the electricity for City operations. More notably, participation in the community solar program saves the City about \$11,000 annually through credits from Xcel Energy on the utility bills.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The vulnerability assessment¹⁰ is a key piece of the Energy and Resilience Action Plan (ERAP) to support future planning for the impacts of a changing climate on the community and municipal infrastructure. This piece of the report is meant to provide a high-level summary of the history of and future changes to the climate in Rifle and its potential effect on Rifle's population, infrastructure, and services. Populations are identified that may be more or less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in order to best enhance the Rifle community's climate resilience.

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Are tools to help policymakers and communities identify where to prioritize climate resilience efforts and allocate resources.

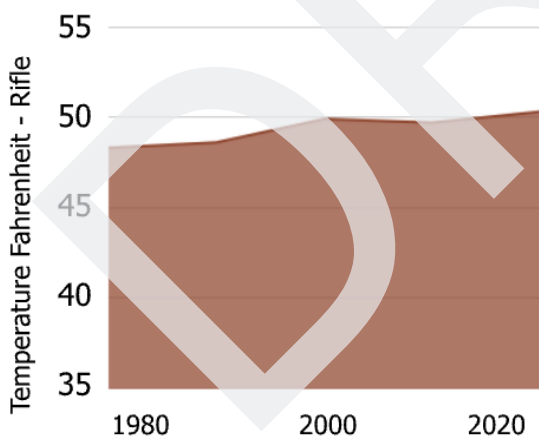
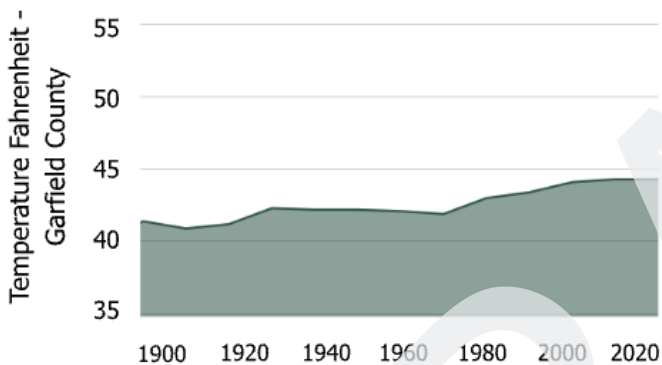
ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION

- ❖ Climate history and projections
- ❖ Climate change impacts
 - Heat
 - Drought
 - Smoke
- ❖ Vulnerable populations



CLIMATE¹¹ HISTORY AND PROJECTIONS

Colorado is getting hotter and drier, and already seeing the effects in our communities, natural landscapes, and local economies. Since 1900, the state's average temperature has risen by about 2°F.¹² This shift has created the right conditions for more frequent and severe wildfires. Four of the five largest in state history happened just between 2018 and 2020, and all of the top 20 have occurred since 2001.¹³ These fires are no longer limited to remote forests; events like the Grizzly Creek Fire in Garfield and Eagle Counties, the Lake Christine Fire in Pitkin County and Marshall Fire in Boulder County show how growing communities now face greater wildfire risk, even in suburban areas.



Average temperatures in Rifle have increased by 1% each decade. Data available for Rifle starts in the 1980s. This trend follows the same data available for Garfield County, which extends to the 1880s.

Figures 13 and 14. Historical average temperatures for Garfield County, CO (1900-2020) and for the City of Rifle, CO (1980-2020). Data sourced from [National Centers for Environmental Information](#), [USA Today](#), [National Weather Service](#), and from the [Climate Explorer](#)

CLIMATE

The long-term pattern of oceanic and atmospheric conditions at a location

[NOAA]

Colorado's natural resources are also under pressure. Hotter, drier weather weakens trees, making them more susceptible to pests and disease, which is leading to widespread tree loss across our forests. Native tree species are struggling to take root and survive in these new conditions, especially in their early growth stages. That means the landscapes that grow back after wildfires may look—and function—very differently than the ones we have today.

These changes are not just environmental; they're economic. Outdoor recreation, tourism, farming, and forestry all depend on healthy land and reliable water. As conditions shift, communities across the state—urban and rural alike—are facing new challenges to safety, infrastructure, and local livelihoods.

Rifle, like much of Colorado, is used to experiencing these wide variations in temperatures throughout the year. Dry conditions and wildfire damage also increase flood risks. When soil is too dry to absorb water and vegetation has burned away, heavy rain can quickly lead to dangerous runoff and flash flooding. These same conditions are contributing to earlier snowmelt¹⁴, lower reservoir levels, and reduced water availability—affecting everything from agriculture to household water supply¹⁵.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define regional climates. Changes observed are driven by human activities and natural processes

[NASA]

CLIMATE CHANGE¹⁶

Across the region, including Rifle, the main effects of climate change on people, infrastructure and businesses include:

- Extreme heat
- Drought
- Wildfire smoke
- Severe weather and flooding

Each of these risks is described in the section below. Additional potential exposures include extreme precipitation events and wildfires.

EXTREME HEAT

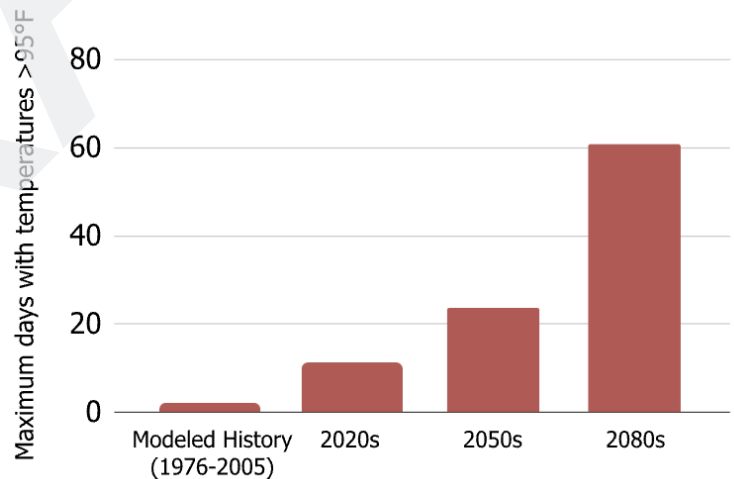
Extreme high temperatures, consistent daily temperatures over 90°F, are projected to increase in the future. In Garfield County and Rifle, on average, the number of days above 95°F is expected to increase by over 400% from the 2020s to the 2080s. All climate models project warming, some more than others, so confidence in the trend is high.

EXTREME HIGH TEMPERATURES

High-temperature change in days: Increasing
Geography: Rifle

Effects: road and infrastructure/asphalt damage, steel expansion, water demand, water use, reduced ability to do construction projects, increased risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke

Figure 15. The projected maximum annual days with temperatures over 95°F in Rifle, CO for modeled history and projections into the end of the century. Data sourced from [CMRA- Living Atlas](#)

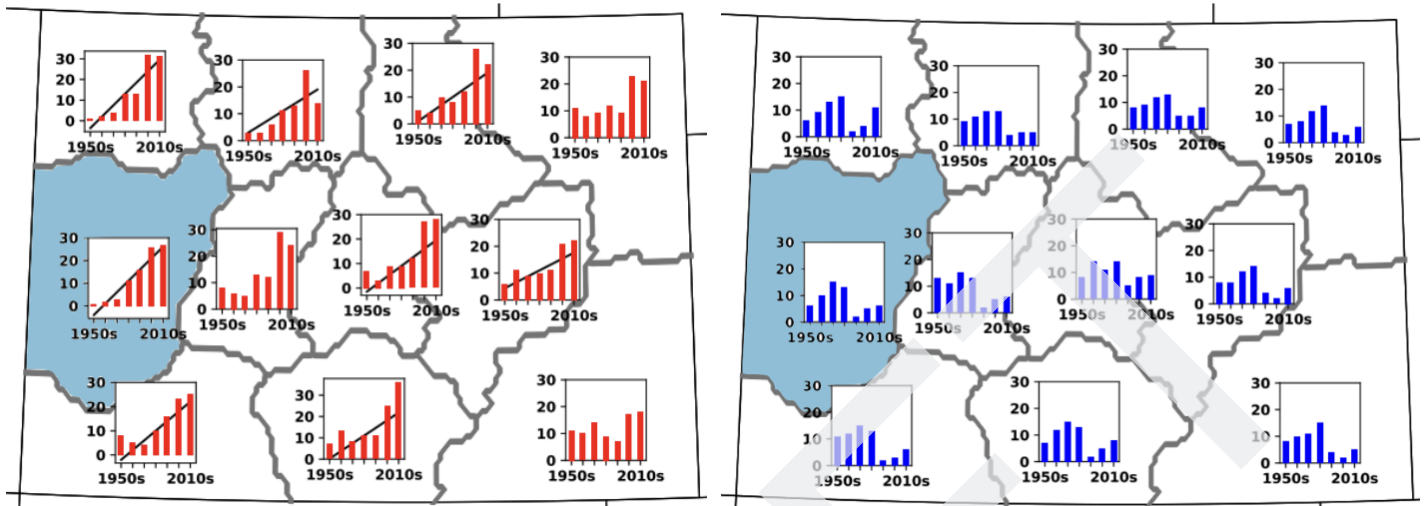


HEAT WAVES

Heat waves trends: Increasing
Geography: Garfield County

Effects: increased water demand, water use, health impacts, prevalence of dehydration, energy demand for cooling

Heat and cold waves are defined as the number of the average hottest, or coldest, 4-day periods per year¹². In Rifle and the rest of Colorado, heat waves are generally becoming more frequent, and cold waves less frequent. The increase in heat waves can result in increased water demand, water use, health impacts, prevalence of dehydration, and energy demand for cooling.

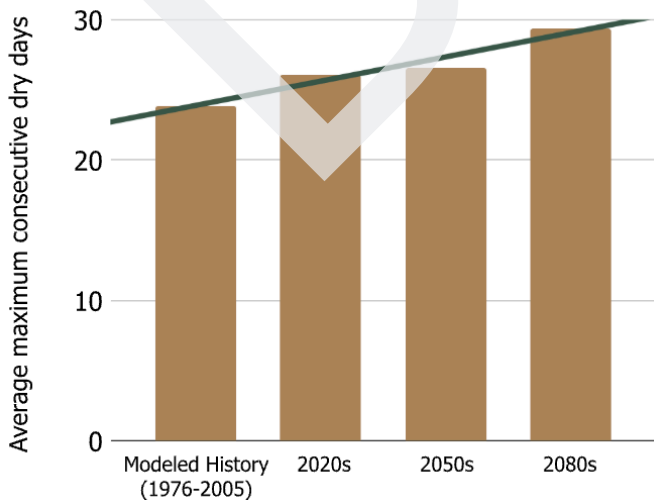


Figures 16 and 17. The historical trend (1950-2010s) in 4-day heat and cold waves across Colorado, with the Rifle and Garfield County region highlighted in blue (Image altered - Original image credit [Bolinger et. al, 2023](#))

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) showed that over 500 people with heat-related illnesses passed through hospitals, with 13 deaths, in 2023¹⁷. This does not include all the people treated outside of the hospital for heat exhaustion, heat stroke, and dehydration, among other issues. Stakeholders shared concerns about the impact of cold temperatures and cold waves on the population. The risks of impacts from the cold are valid and most commonly suffered by the unhoused, elderly, and minority populations¹⁸. Due to the variety of options available to support residents with cold weather issues, we encourage anyone suffering from home heating problems to seek out these programs for winter heating assistance. In Garfield County, these programs include [LEAP](#), [WAP](#), [CARE](#), and [ReEnergize](#).

PRECIPITATION AND DROUGHT

Rising average winter temperatures are leading to fewer frost-free days in the region and longer periods of warmer weather. In the mountains, this reduces the ability of the snowpack to build up during the colder months and causes it to melt earlier in the year. Additionally, warmer temperatures mean that more precipitation falls as rain rather than snow. As a result, water runs off quickly rather than being stored in the snowpack and released gradually as snowmelt. This faster runoff means less steady water availability for communities like Rifle later in the year¹⁹.



DRY PERIODS

Consecutive dry days: Increasing

Geography: Rifle

Effects: increased water demand, drier soils, increased occurrence of runoff, flash floods, or landslide with precipitation events, increased wildfire risk, increased demand on water treatment plants, property damage, disruption to commuting patterns, and supply line disruption

Figure 18. Rifle's maximum consecutive days with no precipitation for modeled history and projections to the end of the century (1976-2100). Data from [CMRA](#)

WILDFIRE DANGER AND SMOKE

Garfield County is at high risk for wildfires and smoke impacts, with increasing frequency and severity due to hotter, drier conditions¹⁵. Wildfires produce smoke that can travel long distances, affecting areas far beyond the fire's location. As fire seasons lengthen and more people live near fire-prone areas, the risk will continue to rise. It is crucial for Rifle residents to have access to clean indoor air spaces to protect themselves from harmful smoke exposure, with further prevention measures outlined in the ERAP strategies and action steps. Note that while FEMA classifies Rifle as "Relatively low" risk, the regions of Garfield County surrounding Rifle are classified at higher risk. This has implications for Rifle as wildfires occurring in the region will impact Rifle, even if the fires do not happen in the immediate area.

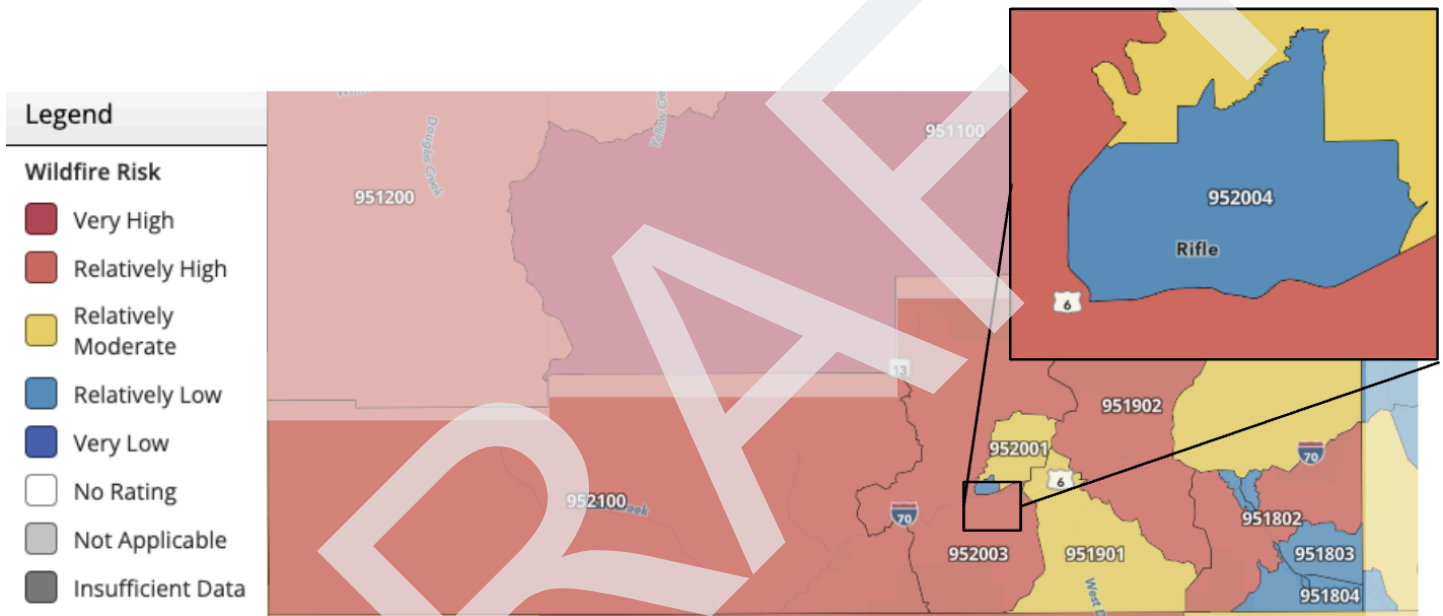


Figure 19. The FEMA calculated Wildfire risk index for Garfield County and Rifle (Data and Image credit [FEMA National Risk Index](#))

In addition to the physical impacts of wildfire, the increases in wildfire frequency throughout the state have contributed to spikes in home insurance rates across Colorado. A recent study on the relationship between property insurance and disaster risk shows that homeowners insurance rates have increased with an average of roughly 60% in Colorado over the last five years²⁰. These increases contribute to the high cost of living in the Rifle region and can exacerbate the economic strain on residents.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

All people face possible health effects from the different impacts of climate. Some people, however, face higher risks than others because of differences in the hazards to which they are exposed, their sensitivity to these hazards, and their ability to adapt²¹.

People who are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change include children and the elderly, who are physically more susceptible to illness and injury. Vulnerable populations also includes certain communities of color and low-income groups, who face health disparities and lack resources to respond or recover; individuals with limited English proficiency or varying levels of education, who may encounter challenges before, during, and after

climate events; and those with preexisting health conditions, who may experience worsened health outcomes.

VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE STRESSORS AND THE PORTION OF RIFLE POPULATION AT RISK

The table below, figure 20, highlights the most vulnerable populations in Rifle as reported by the U.S. Census bureau for 2022. The only data not found specifically for Rifle was the percentage of the immigrant population²² and the percentage of the population pregnant at any one time. The immigrant population percentage is provided for Garfield County as a whole.

The methodology used to determine the potential risk considered the populations' exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity²³ to climate stressors by reviewing the select population's access to cooling and air purification, the general ability to help oneself, and the potential for time spent outdoors.

Population	Vulnerability	Heat	Drought	Smoke	% of Rifle Population
Children, <5 years old	Breathe more air and drink more water per body weight than adults Developing organs and low immunity Dependent on adults More time spent outdoors	X	X	X	8.3%
Older Adults, > 64 years old	Low immunity Pre-existing conditions Limited mobility	X	X	X	9.4%
Low-Income Communities	Less resources and means to evacuate Inadequate infrastructure	X			5.3%
Living Alone	May be less connected to information or community	X			4%
Immigrants (inc. limited English) (foreign-born)	Lesser English language abilities and cultural differences during evacuation Access to post-disaster funding	X	X		15.3% in Garfield County
Disabled	Limited access to knowledge, resources, and services to effectively respond to environmental change Compromised health makes people with disabilities more vulnerable to extreme climate events or infectious diseases More likely to have difficulties during required evacuations	X	X	X	8.7%
Unemployment	The potential loss of employment following a disaster exacerbates the number of unemployed workers in a community, contributing to a slower recovery from the disaster.	X	X		3.2%
Outdoor workers	Exposure to high temperatures, air pollution, extreme weather and natural disasters, and biological hazards	X	X	X	9.4%
Persons with preexisting or chronic medical conditions	Climate stressors can increase respiratory and cardiovascular disease, injuries and premature deaths related to extreme weather events, increased exposure to food- and waterborne illnesses and other infectious diseases, and threats to mental health	X	X	X	8.6%

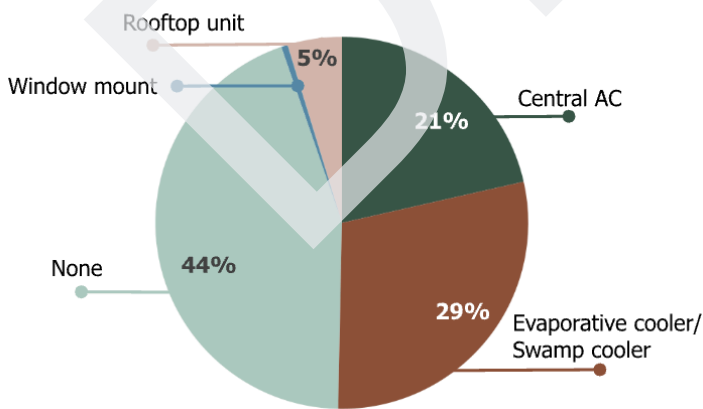
Pregnancy	Exposure to high temperatures or air pollution could increase the potential for babies to be premature, underweight or stillborn.	X	X	X	
Education - less than high school degree	Lower education constrains the ability to understand warning information and access to recovery information.	X		X	13.5%
Communities of Color	Inadequate infrastructure Health disparities Lack of social capital	X	X	X	43.7%
Commuters	Travel away from the community May have delayed local emergency information May be impacted by disaster events that may not directly affect Rifle	X	X	X	71%

Figure 20. Demographics table for Rifle's vulnerable populations and their potential vulnerabilities to climate disasters. Data sourced from [US Census Bureau for 2022](#).

Rifle residents generally have higher levels of education, stable employment, and access to healthcare and resources. However, when examining vulnerable populations, 30% of residents speak a language other than English at home, with nearly 13% of these individuals reporting limited proficiency in English. Almost 44% of Rifle's population identifies as part of a minority community. Rifle has a higher percentage of children under the age of 5 compared to the state average, and nearly 10% of the population is 65 or older.

Over 70% of the employed population commutes outside of Rifle for work (>15 minute drive)²⁴. These residents are vulnerable to climate through the impacts that can be seen from extreme weather events that cause damage to roadways such as mud or landslides and fires which can prevent them from getting to or from their place of employment.

Type of cooling system in the home as assessed



ACCESS TO AIR PURIFICATION AND COOLING

Access to permanent forms of cooling and air purification is a key necessity for residents of Rifle. Cooling can be provided through central air conditioning (AC), evaporative or swamp coolers, window units, and different types of heat pumps. While air filtration relief can come from other options, built-in or permanent air purification can only be achieved through AC, heat pumps, or specialized air filtration systems.

Figure 21. Rifle home percentages for types of cooling recorded by the Garfield County Assessor.

Rifle's housing stock was analyzed for types of cooling installed using publicly available data from the Garfield County Assessor²⁵. There is a margin of error with the data as some cooling systems may not be recorded in the assessor's database. The data available showed that just over half of all homes in Rifle have some form of permanent cooling. However, as it relates to air quality, only about 20% of homes have a cooling system that also purifies the air coming into the home.

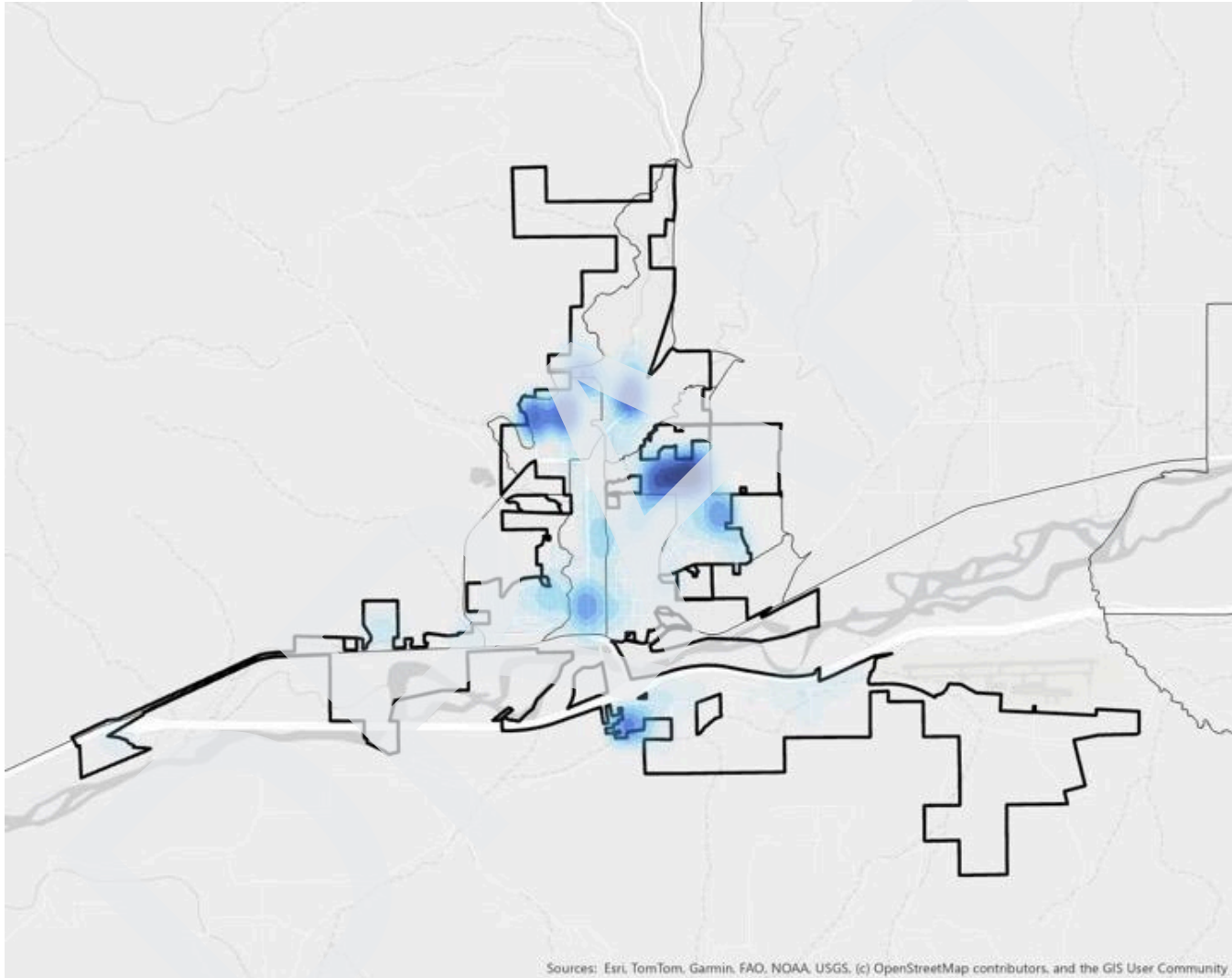


Figure 22. Image of locations in Rifle with central air conditioning. Darker blue is a higher concentration of AC installed in homes. Residential cooling data sourced from the Garfield County Assessor.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED

STRATEGIES FOR ENERGY AND RESILIENCE

❖ FOCUS AREAS

❖ STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

- OVERARCHING STRATEGIES
- BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- TRANSPORTATION
- MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOCUS AREAS

The City of Rifle, CLEER staff, stakeholders, and the public designed the strategies and action steps in this plan to optimally serve the community. The strategies and action steps are intended to be achievable, constructive, and support the City's ability to make progress on energy and resilience action planning.

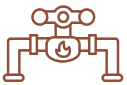
Four distinct focus areas are featured for the City's energy and resilience action planning effort. These were selected to group the City and the community's needs into useful categories that prioritize important sectors.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT: residential and commercial buildings and landscapes



TRANSPORTATION: alternative fuels, city fleets, multimodal transportation



MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS: solid waste, water and wastewater treatment, municipal facilities



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: workforce, economic diversification, and training opportunities



STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

The strategies and action steps are the heart of the energy and resilience action planning effort. They provide a pathway for the City and its partners to benefit residents, businesses, and local governments both now and in the future.

Each focus area has a list of strategies and action steps that build off of those strategies. All focus areas include strategies that address both the energy and resilience components of this planning effort. Planning efforts like this one end up using varying terms to describe the levels of specificity of steps to achieve the plan's larger goals. In this plan, these are described as:

- Strategies: broad, goal-oriented steps the City and residents can take to reduce energy use and increase resilience.
- Action steps: steps for how to achieve the identified strategies. They are specific enough to be clear and actionable, but typically are broad enough to encompass a variety of methods to take action.

STRATEGY AND ACTION STEP DEVELOPMENT

A variety of tools were utilized to develop the strategies and action steps in the ERAP. City of Rifle staff recommended strategies that were valuable to the City and the broader community based on needs and projects they had identified. Input from stakeholders and the general public was also incorporated through the methods described in the Community Context section.

Strategies were also developed based on a review of state, regional, and local plans²⁶. The research team referenced federal and academic resources, in addition to strategies identified by other similar jurisdictions.

Examples of plans include but are not limited to:

[Rifle Comprehensive Plan, 2019](#)

[Garfield County Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2022](#)

[Garfield Clean Energy: Energy Action Plan, 2023](#)

[Colorado Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Roadmap 2.0, 2024](#)

Because this is a community-wide plan, strategies and action steps are inclusive of both what is within the City of Rifle's purview as the lead entity for implementation as well as those that would be implemented by a collaborative partner. The strategies and action steps outlined below delineate these two categories for easy reference.

Action steps which the city staff determined the City of Rifle is the lead implementer for are contained within the blue boxes.

Action steps that were determined to be collaborative actions are listed below the City's steps in a smaller font. Collaborative steps are those that other entities are doing already or that the city intends to work with others to move forward.

OPTIMIZING MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

The scope of this plan includes analysis and strategies for both mitigation and adaptation of climate change.

Mitigation:²⁶ Strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions have significant benefits to the community. Mitigation involves taking action to reduce the degree of climate warming by reducing the emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. These actions lower energy costs, make buildings safer and more comfortable, reduce traffic, and diversify the economy. In this plan, mitigation strategies can largely be grouped into the “energy” component.

Adaptation:²⁷ Preparing for the effects a warming climate will have on the community. How these changes will impact Rifle specifically are outlined in the Vulnerability Assessment portion of this plan, and include increased wildfire frequency and intensity, heatwaves, and drought. Actions that the City of Rifle and other partners can take to protect their residents, businesses, municipal operations, and economy from these impacts are described in this section. Adaptation strategies are primarily covered under the “resilience” component of this plan.

Some strategies that attempt to address either mitigation or adaptation can have negative impacts on the other. For example, one climate adaptation strategy is to increase the prevalence of air conditioning in buildings so that people can stay cool during extreme heat events. This then increases energy use, which can hamper climate mitigation efforts. However, increasing air conditioning in homes with heat pumps or other very energy efficient equipment can help to offset increased energy use. Other strategies are purely beneficial for both categories, such as improved weatherization for homes or water conservation. The relationship between these strategies is illustrated in figure 23.

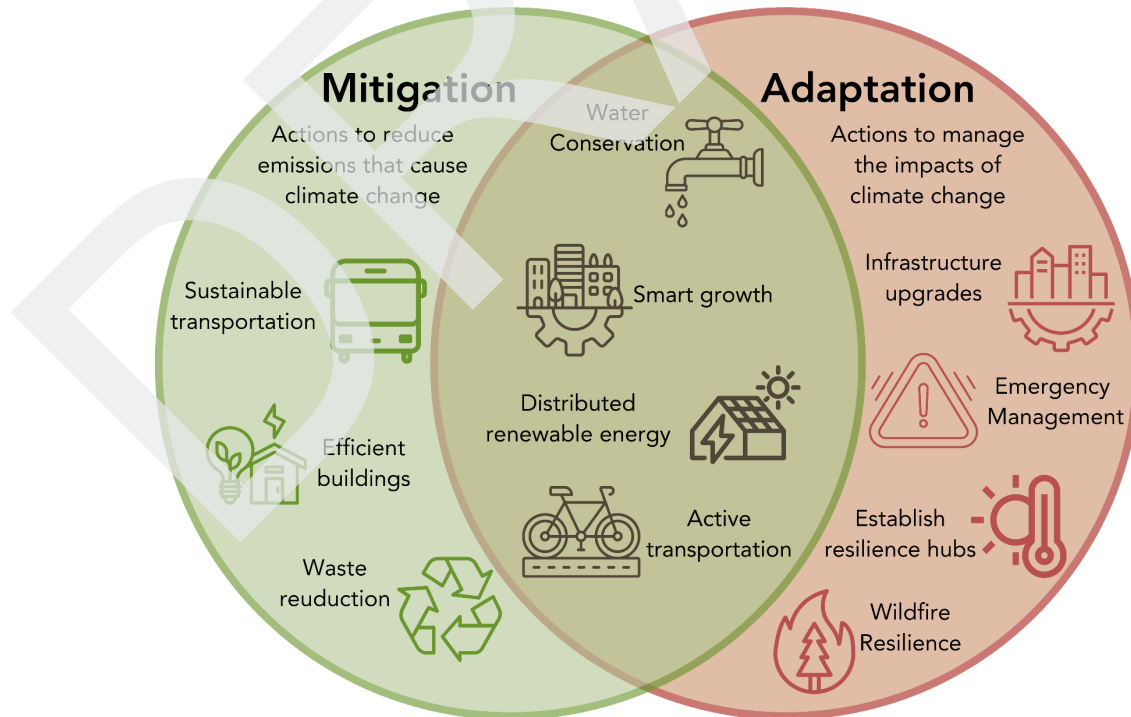


Figure 23. Venn diagram illustrating mitigation and adaptation strategies

OVERARCHING STRATEGIES

Action steps which the city staff determined the City of Rifle is the lead implementer for are contained within the blue boxes.

Action steps that were determined to be collaborative actions are listed below the City's steps in a smaller font. Collaborative steps are those that other entities are doing already or that the city intends to work with others to move forward.

STRATEGY

O 1

Strategically implement findings of the Energy and Resilience Action Plan

ACTION STEPS

O 1.1

Develop a toolkit of best practices for implementation including funding resources, policy options, and public outreach

O 1.2

Utilize ERAP strategy matrix to prioritize action steps based on feasibility and benefit

O 1.3

Provide education and outreach on water efficiency, tree canopy preservation, energy conservation, and other energy and resilience actions to encourage buy-in for future programs

O 1.4

Include Spanish translations of energy and resilience outreach materials to reach the significant portion of Rifle residents that are primarily Spanish-speaking

O 1.5

Strengthen capacity of existing organizations such as Garfield Clean Energy to implement findings of the plan through expanding clean energy programs

STRATEGY

O 2

Promote high quality of life in the community

ACTION STEPS

O 2.1

Expand access to rivers, creeks, and other recreational amenities in the Rifle area

O 2.2

Promote a diverse economy that is focused on providing quality jobs that can be accessed by Rifle community members, focused on local needs and providing residents options to work, live, and play in Rifle

O 2.3

Foster the development of high-quality, affordable housing options that encourage home ownership and resident retention

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Residential buildings
Commercial buildings
Landscapes



This focus area includes energy and resilience strategies for buildings and landscapes that are primarily private properties. Municipal buildings and landscapes are largely addressed in the municipal operations focus area. Strategies and action steps are aimed at improving energy efficiency, conserving water and land, and improving the resilience of community buildings and resources. Many of the strategies below will support reductions in the Rifle community's 51,042 MT CO₂e emissions attributed to building energy use.

City lead implementer

Collaborative actions



BUILT ENVIRONMENT



STRATEGY

B 1

Improve energy efficiency in buildings

ACTION STEPS

B 1.1

Grow Garfield Clean Energy's ReEnergize residential energy citywide rebate program to provide ongoing resources to Rifle community and help advertise it to more residents

B 1.2

Prepare and educate on potential new state requirements for energy codes through City staff and building community training²⁸

B 1.3

Explore opportunities for public or private development of thermal energy networks, ground source heat pumps (GSHPs), and geothermal power generation²⁹

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

B 1.4

Work with the Colorado River Valley Chamber and CRVEDP to encourage walk-throughs and consultations of commercial properties to identify energy-saving measures and resources

B 1.5

Promote utility bill tracking and energy management programs for commercial buildings, including Xcel Energy Empower Intelligence, ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager or CLEER's Advanced Energy Management programs

B 1.6

Educate commercial property owners of State benchmarking and building performance standards for buildings over 50,000 sq. ft.³⁰

B 1.7

Provide ongoing support and technical assistance to encourage energy saving best practices in building design for new construction and remodeled buildings

B 1.8

Expand communication, outreach, and incentives for existing energy efficiency programs and resources to encourage participation

BUILT ENVIRONMENT



STRATEGY

B 2

Reduce water use on properties in the community

ACTION STEPS

B 2.1

Collaborate with community groups to educate the public on the importance of tree canopies and encourage tree planting. Share content on the City's website

B 2.2

Provide educational materials on the use of WaterSense-rated plumbing fixtures and other household water conservation best practices

B 2.3

Recommend the use of drought-tolerant plants or xeriscaping as part of water conservation, landscaping, and water waste ordinances. Work with partners and local retailers to provide educational materials

B 2.4

Amend City landscaping ordinance to include drought-tolerant plant pallet, encourage drip irrigation, and provide education about the options for turf alternatives

B 2.5

Encourage upgrades and maintenance of irrigation systems, including the installation of rain sensors

B 2.6

Pursue additional opportunities for raw water to serve as city irrigation and residential lawn-watering to reduce the energy load placed on the water treatment plant

BUILT ENVIRONMENT



STRATEGY

B 3

Expand access to cooling and air purification

ACTION STEPS

B 3.1

Explore opportunities for expansion of green infrastructure³¹ on private property

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

B 3.2

Encourage energy-efficient cooling, such as cold-climate mini-split heat pumps through promoting financial resources like rebates and tax credits

B 3.3

Supply air purification units, including low-cost DIY units, to at-risk populations to reduce wildfire smoke exposure. Provide educational resources on air purification

B 3.4

Explore possibility of cooling towers³² for residential, commercial, and public spaces

STRATEGY

B 4

Utilize land use principles for conservation of energy and land

ACTION STEPS

B 4.1

Increase building density where appropriate in identified zone districts or as the comprehensive plan is updated

B 4.2

Preserve natural landscapes, green spaces, and open space as appropriate

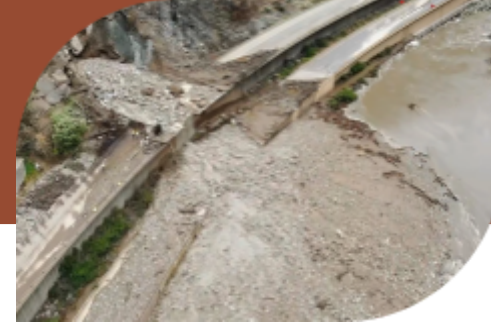
B 4.3

Utilize infill development where possible rather than expansion into new areas

B 4.4

Evaluate the feasibility of becoming a certified local government (CLG) and establishing a building preservation program

BUILT ENVIRONMENT



STRATEGY

B 5

Prepare community assets and infrastructure for extreme weather and natural disasters

ACTION STEPS

B 5.1

Identify potential sites to serve as resilience hubs based on criteria developed by state and federal agencies. This could include a new community center

B 5.2

Install energy efficient power back-up systems through installing battery backup or upgrading to high efficiency gas generators where battery back-up is not an option

B 5.3

Maintain current resources on the City's website which educate the public about local emergency response plans

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

B 5.4

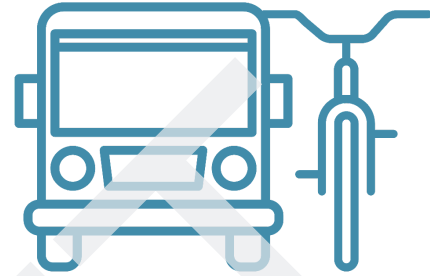
Promote local businesses interested in hosting customers during extreme heat and wildfire smoke events

Image Credit: [Post Independent](#)



TRANSPORTATION

Alternative fuels
City fleets
Multimodal transportation



The City of Rifle is continually working to improve biking, walking, and transit access throughout the City and surrounding areas. This focus area addresses strategies that improve the safety, quality, and connectivity of trails and transit. It also includes public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and access as well as improving traffic flows within the City. Another transportation-related issue for Rifle is that many Rifle residents commute out of the City for jobs elsewhere. The economic development section of the ERAP contains strategies to expand the prevalence of well-paying jobs in Rifle to limit commute distances, which would reduce vehicle emissions and create more time for residents to engage in other activities in the community.

City lead implementer

Collaborative actions



TRANSPORTATION



STRATEGY

T 1
Encourage biking and walking around the City

ACTION STEPS

T 1.1
Promote biking and walking infrastructure to connect new development areas to the rest of the City and prioritize development in areas with existing multimodal infrastructure

T 1.2
Support opportunities to improve multimodal connectivity to business districts, downtown, and transit hubs. Include and identify ADA routes

T 1.3
Identify priority trail projects in Rifle Plans and instigate construction of those projects. Seek grant funding and opportunities to incorporate bike and pedestrian trails into other capital projects

T 1.4
Improve biking and walking safety infrastructure, adding lighting, wayfinding, and signage materials. Generate a map of the safe and friendly biking and walking routes

T 1.5
Collaborate with local trail organizations include the Rifle Area Mountain Bike Organization (RAMBO) and the Lower Valley Trail Association (LOVA) to improve access to trails

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

T 1.6
Evaluate feasibility of a bike share program to operate in Rifle

T 1.7
Support increased access to bikes, including e-bikes and non-e-bikes, for all populations

TRANSPORTATION



STRATEGY

T 2

Enhance community-based transit options

ACTION STEPS

T 2.1

Update the evaluation for potential for microtransit, such as a circulator or "downtowner" to operate within the City, building off of the Rifle-RFTA Circulator Feasibility Study

T 2.2

Continue to collaborate with the Parachute Area Transit System and expand service as needed and feasible

T 2.3

Collaborate with other Colorado River towns to work towards improved, ongoing, sufficient transit service to Rifle residents

STRATEGY

T 3

Reduce fuel usage for City fleets

ACTION STEPS

T 3.1

Upgrade city fleet vehicles to more fuel efficient or electric models when they are due for replacement and where fiscally feasible. Apply to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Clean Fleet Vehicle and Technology Grant Program for funding towards fleet EVs and Colorado Energy Office's Fleet Zero program for fleet EV charging if relevant

T 3.2

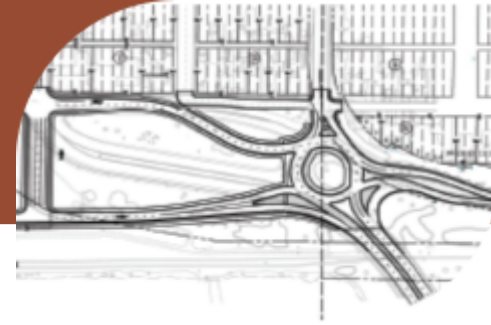
Ensure fleet vehicles are properly maintained, including tire pressure

T 3.3

Utilize "vehicle rightsizing," ensuring that the size of a vehicle corresponds appropriately with the tasks that it performs



TRANSPORTATION



STRATEGY

T 4

Address impacts of extreme weather to transportation options

ACTION STEPS

T 4.1

Promote safe biking and walking practices that reduce exposure to wildfire smoke and extreme heat

T 4.2

Identify and promote alternate evacuation and transportation routes during road closures including county plans

T 4.3

Request that RFTA install or upgrade shade structures at bus stops where applicable

STRATEGY

T 5

Improve traffic flows within the City

ACTION STEPS

T 5.1

Encourage development to locate in Tier 1 areas of Rifle as identified in the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan

T 5.2

Identify priority road and trail projects in Capital Improvements Plan and instigate construction of those projects as feasible

T 5.3

Ensure new transportation projects reduce vehicle idle time and promote traffic efficiency

STRATEGY

T 6

Support expanded access to EV charging

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

T 6.1

Encourage development of low-voltage Level 2 charging sites downtown and along Railroad Ave

T 6.2

Expand access to safety measures for electric vehicles, charging infrastructure fires, and other incidents

T 6.3

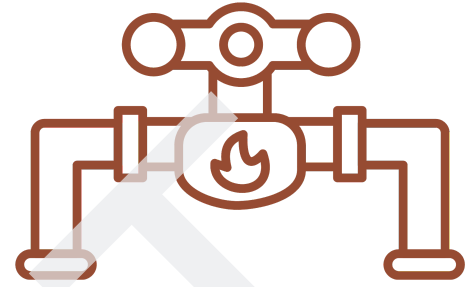
Encourage EV-ready building development, including at multifamily housing (MFH) complexes

T. 6.4

Work with partners to identify funding opportunities for EV charging within City limits

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

**Solid waste
Water and wastewater treatment
Municipal facilities**



Strategies in this focus area address improving energy efficiency and water conservation for municipal properties. These include the water and wastewater treatment plants, which are major energy users, as well as other municipal buildings and parks. This focus area also includes strategies to maximize energy production from the City's extensive existing solar arrays, maintain and expand existing green spaces, and increase waste diversion rates from the landfill.

City lead implementer

Collaborative actions

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS



STRATEGY

M 1

Reduce energy use in City facilities

ACTION STEPS

M 1.1

Actively use utility bill tracking and 15-minute interval data for priority municipal buildings to monitor and reduce energy use

M 1.2

Promote an energy conservation culture among City staff, including participation in holiday shutdown energy savings events

M 1.3

As part of the CIP process, upgrade building lighting over to light controllers to help with lights being left on overnight. Review the potential for "smart plugs" to shut off items that don't need to run continuously

M 1.4

Convert all non-LED lighting to LEDs in municipal buildings

M 1.5

Incorporate energy efficiency and sustainability design principles in all new construction and upgrades to City facilities

STRATEGY

M 2

Improve energy efficiency and resilience of water and wastewater treatment infrastructure and distribution

ACTION STEPS

M 2.1

Evaluate feasibility and funding options for heat recovery and effluent cooling systems from wastewater treatment process to heat facilities, reduce energy use, and comply with potential state regulations

M 2.2

Prioritize and install improvements for water purification facilities, water distribution systems, raw water improvements, wastewater reclamation facilities, and sanitary sewer collection systems as identified in the City's Utility Maintenance, Capital, and Rate Study

M 2.3

Prepare for and install salinity removal processes if needed in the future

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS



STRATEGY

M 3

Optimize City-owned solar production

ACTION STEPS

M 3.1

Review power purchase agreement (PPA) contract renewal options

M 3.2

Evaluate optimal solar acquisition options and discuss the rewrite of renewal contracts with the PPA providers as suggested in the Solar audit

M 3.3

Develop revenue and maintenance plans for solar arrays acquired from PPA providers, including determining if an outside company should be hired or if work should be done in-house

M 3.4

Collaborate with the PPA providers to upgrade or install interval tracking devices in order to actively monitor production and losses. Where PPA is not obligated to provide tracking, add or upgrade equipment

M 3.5

Work with the Colorado River Valley Chamber, CRVEDP, and Garfield Clean Energy to develop and maintain a list of solar and clean energy contractors that is hosted on the City's website

M 3.6

Assess the resources needed to purchase additional renewable and battery storage capacity to maintain 100% renewable energy for municipal operations. This could include micro-hydro, wind, or other feasible options in addition to solar

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

M 3.7

Work to increase accessibility of solar power to Rifle residents and businesses

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS



STRATEGY

M 4

Reduce water use on municipal properties

ACTION STEPS

M 4.1

Find and mitigate leaks in water distribution system by methodical processes

M 4.2

Fine-tune watering schedules to reduce the time and volume required for irrigation of City properties

M 4.3

Utilize low-flow water fixtures in municipal buildings as replacement is required

M 4.4

Construct xeriscape demonstration gardens on City managed parks and green spaces

M 4.5

Replace City irrigation systems with WaterSense drip-lines where feasible

STRATEGY

M 5

Address risks of a warming climate to City facilities

ACTION STEPS

M 5.1

Ensure city facilities have adequate HVAC systems in place for extreme weather events, including backup generators as needed

M 5.2

Update drought contingency plans for future water supply needs

M 5.3

Identify and protect vulnerable municipal facilities identified in the Garfield County Hazard Risk Assessment

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS



STRATEGY

M 6

Implement green infrastructure and shade cover in sites throughout the City

ACTION STEPS

M 6.1

Perform a Tree Canopy study which will identify key locations that could benefit from additional tree cover

M 6.2

Continue to plant water wise trees and landscaping on municipal properties and preserve existing trees based on master plans, CDs, and recommendations from staff

M 6.3

Shade City parking lots as feasible

M 6.4

Construct bioretention stormwater catchment, like rain gardens, where applicable

M 6.5

Encourage light-colored and non-reflective roofs on buildings, especially those with little or no roof slope, to reduce heat absorption

M 6.6

Encourage light or permeable paving, shade, green alleys, vegetation, and tree canopy

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

M 6.7

Provide individual homeowners and businesses with information about how to correctly maintain green infrastructure design elements (e.g., rain gardens, vegetated swales, and other installations).

STRATEGY

M 7

Increase waste diversion and reduction rates within the City

ACTION STEPS

M 7.1

Create or expand educational programs to encourage proper recycling

M 7.2

Work with local composting companies to expand their services in City limits and provide the community with education on available resources

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Workforce
Economic diversification
Training opportunities**



As a growing and dynamic community, Rifle has an expanding economy with increased opportunities. Traditional industries in the area were oil and gas development and agriculture, but the economy in Rifle is already diversifying. Many residents commute long distances for jobs in resort areas like Glenwood Springs, and often travel as far as Vail and Aspen. Partner organizations and the City are working to recruit high paying jobs in Rifle that retain and attract Rifle residents. "Better jobs closer to home" is a mantra of the Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership and is repeated often when this topic is discussed. Strategies for this focus area include clean energy job training, supporting local businesses, and strengthening partnerships. There are also action steps to protect local workforce from the impacts of a changing climate.

City lead implementer

Collaborative actions





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY

E 1

Support community and private sector partnerships for economic development

ACTION STEPS

E 1.1

Collaborate with the Rifle Regional Airport to ensure airport activities benefit the local Rifle economy

E 1.2

Support efforts of other local economic development organizations including the Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership, the Rifle Regional Economic Development corporation, and the Colorado River Valley Chamber

E 1.3

Work with the Educational Pathways to Innovative Careers (EPIC) and Board Of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) programs to host training opportunities for Rifle High School students

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

E 1.4

Evaluate current potential for developing an Energy Innovation Center and work to develop the Center if possible

STRATEGY

E 2

Prioritize local production and small businesses

ACTION STEPS

E 2.1

Apply as appropriate for DOLA and FMLD funding for local business loans and grants

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

E 2.2

Host events and promotions that encourage shopping at local businesses, such as a "shop local" campaign

E 2.3

Promote opportunities for manufacturing, such as solar panel recycling and other clean energy opportunities

E 2.4

Strengthen local market capacity, including farmer's market or other regional resources

E 2.5

Promote incentives for businesses to source goods from local providers



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

E 3

Provide clean energy and energy efficiency training opportunities for local workforce

E 3.1

Encourage businesses to provide internships and apprenticeships for local high school and higher education students. Continue to offer City internships as well

E 3.2

Collaborate with partners, including Colorado Mountain College and Colorado Mesa University, on job training programs that meet local workforce needs

E 3.3

Host training programs for HVAC, architecture, development professionals, and other local workforce specialties on clean energy technologies and building codes

STRATEGY

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

E 4

Invest in clean energy at homes and businesses

E 4.1

Expand access to broadband internet in the Rifle community

E 4.2

Track and share funding opportunities which support clean energy projects to be installed at homes and businesses prioritizing local contractors

E 4.3

Monitor funding as it becomes available to incentivize battery storage for residential/commercial solar

STRATEGY

COLLABORATIVE ACTION STEPS

E 5

Support workforce health and safety during extreme weather events

E 5.1

Provide educational resources to local employers on the risks of extreme heat to outdoor workers and how to prevent illness from heat exposure

E 5.2

Encourage scheduling of outdoor projects to avoid extreme heat exposure, both daily and annually, including for the private sector

E 5.3

Provide PPE and modified schedules for outdoor workers during wildfire smoke events, including for the private sector

GLOSSARY

Adaptation	Actions that prepare a community to adjust to both the current and projected impacts of climate change
Climate	The long-term pattern of oceanic and atmospheric conditions at a location
Climate Change	A long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth's local, regional, and global climates. Changes observed in Earth's climate are driven by human activities and natural processes
Cooling towers	A cooling tower is a heat removal device that uses water to transfer process waste heat into the atmosphere. It is a huge heat exchanger, expelling building heat into the atmosphere and returning colder water to the chiller. It functions similarly to an evaporative (swamp) cooler
Exposure	Describes the nature and magnitude of an environmental stress event (e.g., extreme temperature, flood, drought) and is usually quantified in terms of the probability that the event will affect people or a system, the duration of the event, and its spatial magnitude
Green infrastructure	As defined by the Clean Water Act, "the term ' green infrastructure (pdf) ' means the range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspiration stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters
Greenhouse gas	Gases in Earth's atmosphere that trap heat. They let sunlight pass through the atmosphere, and they prevent the heat that the sunlight brings from leaving the atmosphere, which keeps the Earth warm. Greenhouse gases include: carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF ₆), and water vapor (H ₂ O)
Mitigation	Efforts to prevent further climate warming by eliminating greenhouse gas emissions.
Multimodal transportation	An approach to transport that incorporates all the modes people use to get around. These may include: automobiles, commuter railways, buses, bicycles, walking, micro-mobility modes such as e-bikes and scooters
Sensitivity	The socioeconomic or demographic characteristics (e.g., race or ethnicity, income and poverty status, educational level, linguistic barriers, type of housing, built environment characteristics) that can make people susceptible to the negative effects of an exposure
Thermal energy networks	Provide efficient and affordable clean energy heating and cooling to entire neighborhoods or groups of buildings through a shared network of water pipes that transfer heat in and out of buildings
Vulnerability	The susceptibility to adverse effects of climate change, including both climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability measures the intersection of exposure, sensitivity to harm, and the capacity to adapt to change

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STRATEGIES

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THE CITY OF RIFLE'S 2025

ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN





PROJECT TEAM INTRODUCTIONS

Clean Energy Economy for the Region (CLEER)

- Morgan Hill, associate director
- Christina Matzl, data and energy analyst

City of Rifle staff

- Patrick Waller, city manager
- Zach Higgins, community development director
- Geir Sverdrup, senior planner
- Austin Rickstrew, parks and recreation director
- Craig Spaulding, city engineer



PRESENTATION AGENDA

- City staff purpose for plan
- Planning benefits, process, and goals
- Focus areas overview
- Community context
 - Stakeholder and public engagement
- Where we are now: the data
 - Greenhouse gas emissions inventory
 - Rifle municipal solar analysis
 - Vulnerability assessment
- Where we're headed: strategies and action steps





PLANNING BENEFITS, PROCESS, AND GOALS

Benefits of energy and resilience action

- Aligns the City of Rifle, its collaborative partners, and community members around shared goals for clean energy and resilience
- Supports energy efficiency measures that benefit the community
- Promotes a diverse economy for Rifle community members, focused on local needs and providing residents options to work, live, and play in Rifle
- Addresses the impacts of a changing climate



WHAT DO ENERGY AND RESILIENCE MEAN IN THIS PLAN?

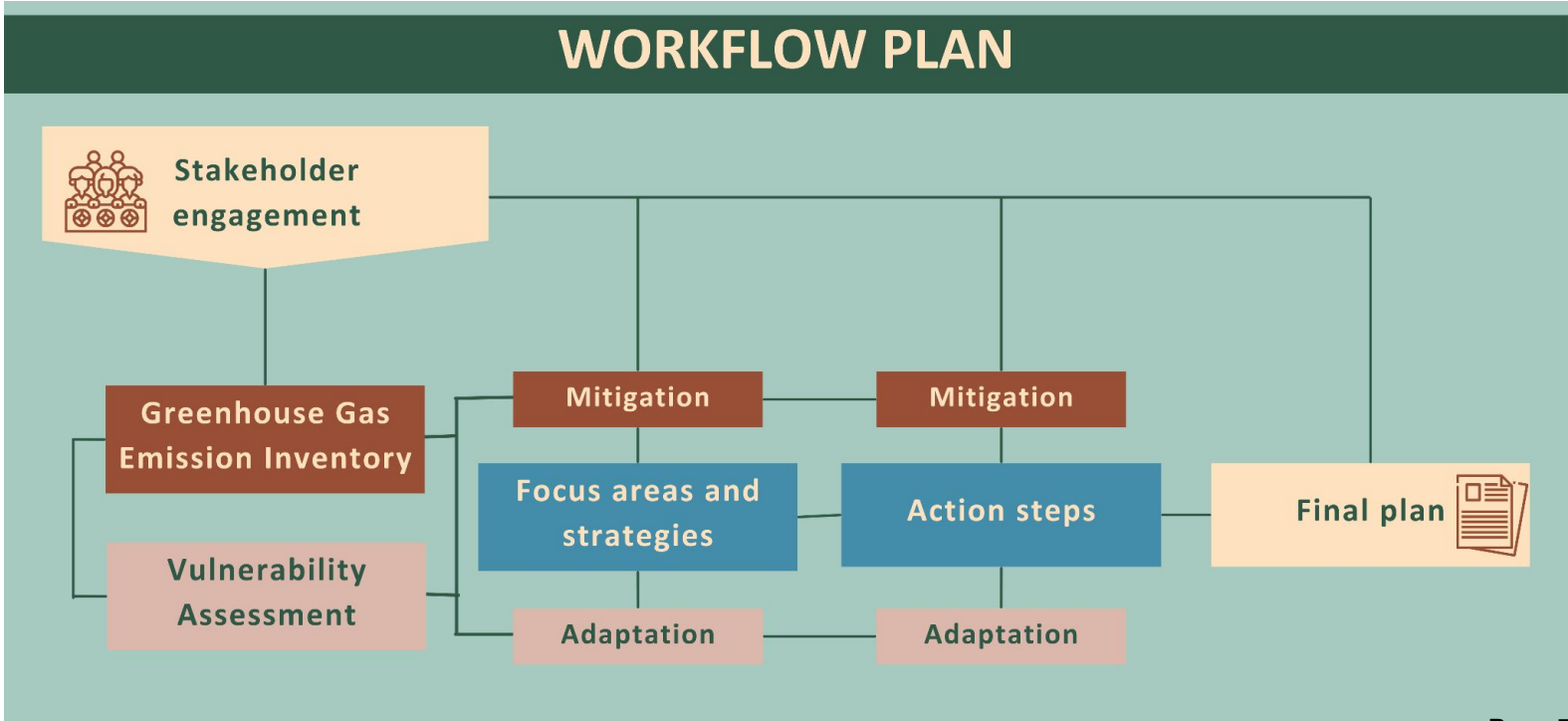
Energy: energy efficiency, renewable energy, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy production and use

Resilience: adaptation to the impacts of a warming climate and creating a more diverse and vibrant economy





PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW





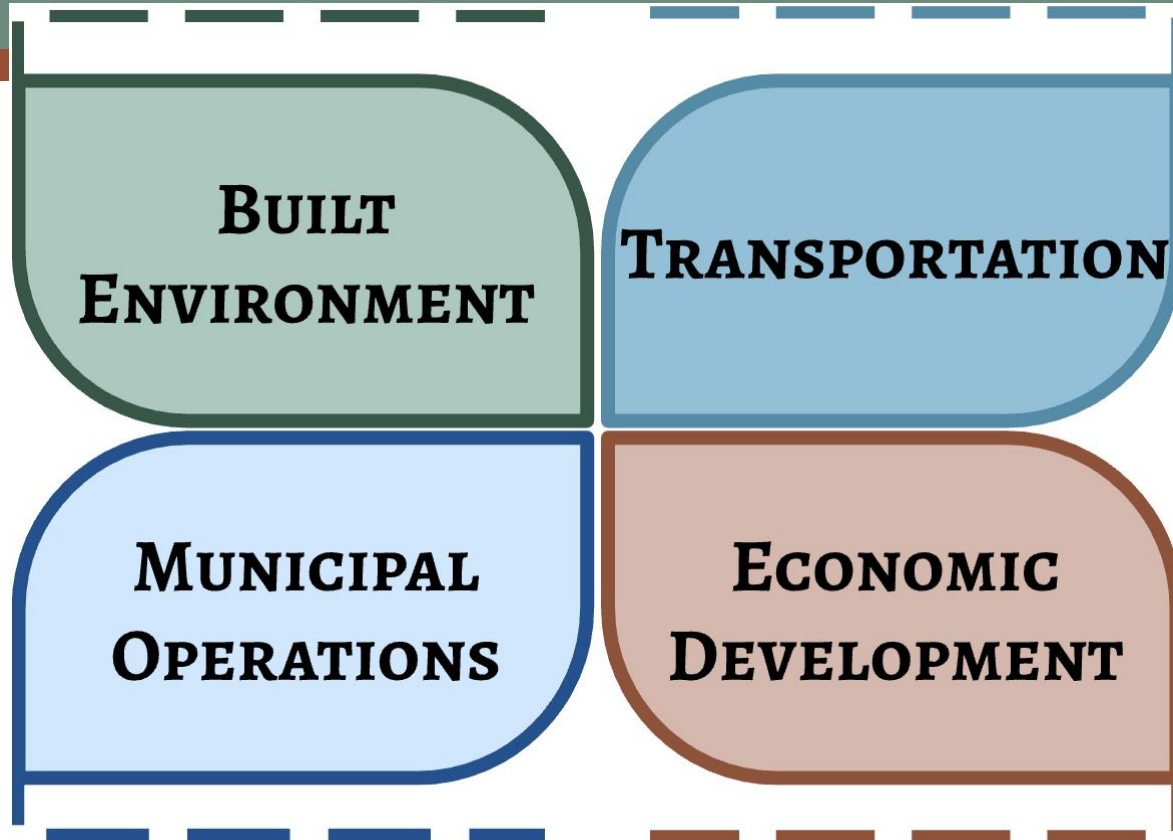
ERAP GOALS

- 1. Engage community members in energy and resilience action**
- 2. Provide tangible and achievable recommendations for municipal operations**
- 3. Create options to reduce emissions and improve quality of life for residents**





ERAP FOCUS AREAS





COMMUNITY CONTEXT

- ◆ **STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**
- ◆ **SNAPSHOT OF RIFLE**



COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Stakeholder engagement

- Stakeholders are key leaders to represent the various sectors of the Rifle community that impact or are impacted by energy use and resilience
- 3 stakeholder workshops
 - a. Overview of the plan and provide strategies
 - b. Review strategies and recommend action steps
 - c. Prioritize action steps and engage in implementation





COMMUNITY CONTEXT: STAKEHOLDER LIST



1. Chavien Paget, Grand River Health
2. Annick Pruitt, Grand River Health
3. Alicia Gresley, Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership
4. Brad McCloud, Xcel Energy
5. Helen Rogers, Rifle Planning and Zoning Commission
6. Marina Karzhova, Rifle Planning and Zoning Commission
7. John Oldham, Garfield County RE-2 School District
8. Kate Collins, Middle Colorado Watershed Council
9. Kyle Lord, Holy Cross Energy
10. Ginette Puidokas, Holy Cross Energy
11. Betsey Seymor, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
12. Kathy Pototsky, City of Rifle Public Information
13. Jared Emmert, City of Rifle Utilities
14. Tinker Duclou, Colorado Mountain College Rifle Campus
15. Brian Prunty, City of Rifle Public Works
16. Mark Sours, Rifle Housing Authority
17. Michael Clancy, Rifle City Council
18. Sean Strode, Rifle City Council
19. Chelsie Miera, Western Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association
20. Joshua Williams, Garfield County Public Health



COMMUNITY CONTEXT: PUBLIC INPUT

Community outreach events: "Plan Jam" open house





COMMUNITY CONTEXT: PUBLIC INPUT

Community outreach events

- Hometown Holidays
- Rifle Earth Day

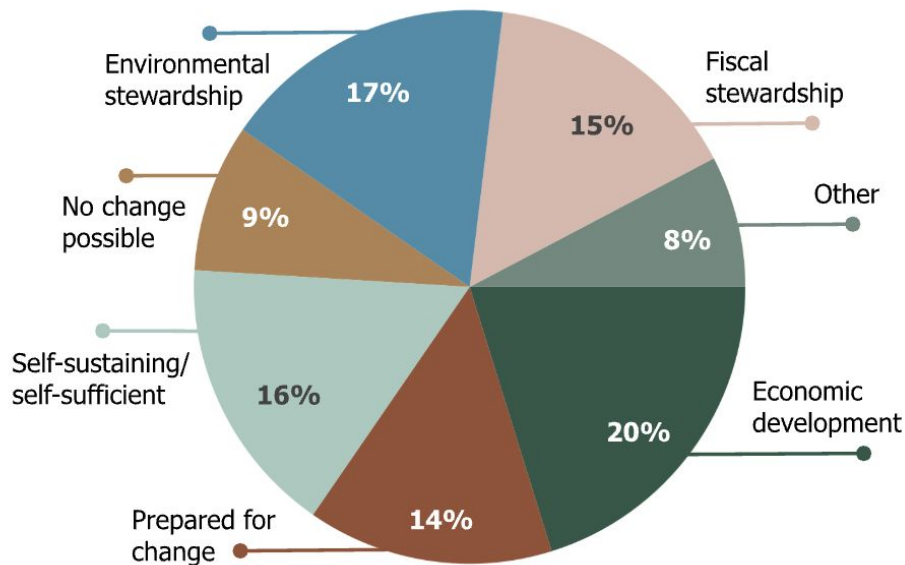




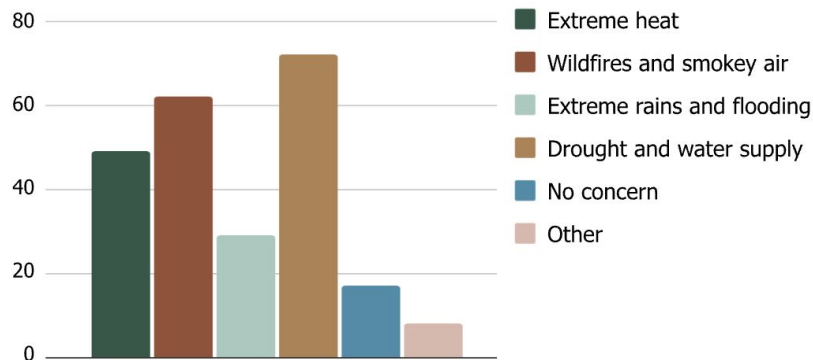
COMMUNITY CONTEXT: PUBLIC INPUT

Public input survey: over 100 responses

What does a resilient Rifle look like to you?



Warming climate concerns





COMMUNITY CONTEXT: PUBLIC INPUT

What do you love about Rifle?

- The small town, “Western Slope” feel that it is family-friendly
- A sense of community, connection, and support
- Residents are hard-working, forward-thinking, resourceful and proactive
- Access to outdoor recreation including mountain biking and hiking trails, parks and open spaces, rivers and fishing, and hunting
- Local amenities such as community events, the Ute Theater, restaurants, and the downtown area





A HISTORY OF CLEAN ENERGY IN RIFLE

- Rifle began to prioritize the development of clean energy projects with the installation of their solar arrays in 2008
- City leadership was integral to the formation of Garfield Clean Energy (GCE), established as a government collaborative in 2012
- GCE membership includes every municipality in Garfield County, Garfield County government, the Roaring Fork Transportation Authority, and Colorado Mountain College. Holy Cross Energy and Garfield County Libraries are affiliate members

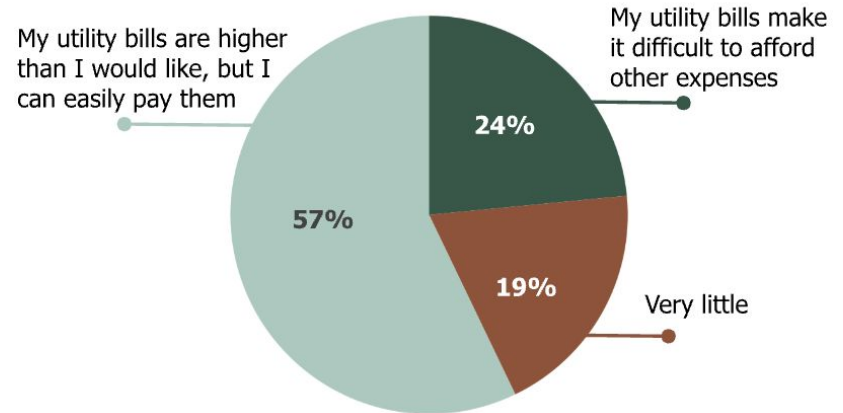


ENERGY USE IN RIFLE

- Rifle is primarily served by Xcel Energy for both electricity and natural gas services
- Xcel Energy's electricity grid serving Rifle is 43% renewable

Energy use	Costs
Residential accounts	\$6,567,665
Commercial accounts	\$6,573,039
Total cost of energy for Rifle community buildings	\$13,140,704

How much do electric and natural gas bills affect your monthly personal or business budget?





WHERE WE ARE NOW

THE DATA

- ❖ GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY
- ❖ ANALYSIS OF RIFLE'S CURRENT SOLAR PRODUCTION
- ❖ VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT



WHERE WE ARE NOW: THE DATA

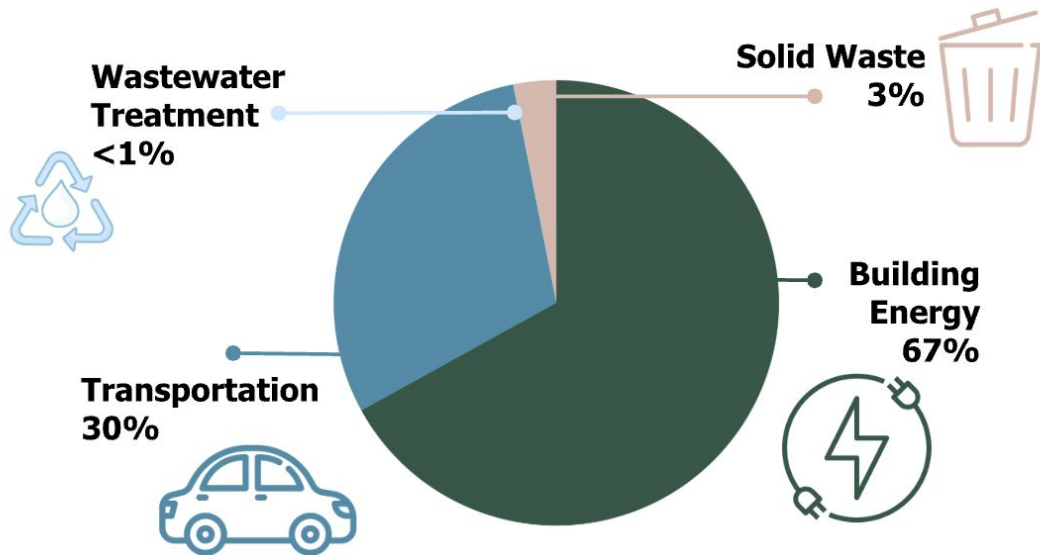
Greenhouse gas emissions inventory

- The buildup of GHG emissions is increasing the Earth's average surface temperature, intensifying the greenhouse effect
- Inventory includes data from electric and natural gas utility reports, vehicle miles traveled on Rifle roads, tons sent to the landfill, and wastewater treatment totals
- City of Rifle's greenhouse gas emissions in 2023 totaled **76,209** MT CO₂e (metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent)



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

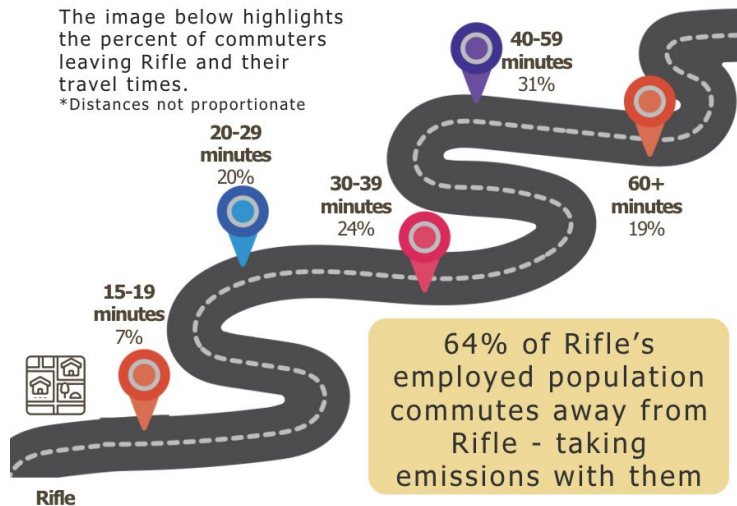
Community-wide data



Commute times

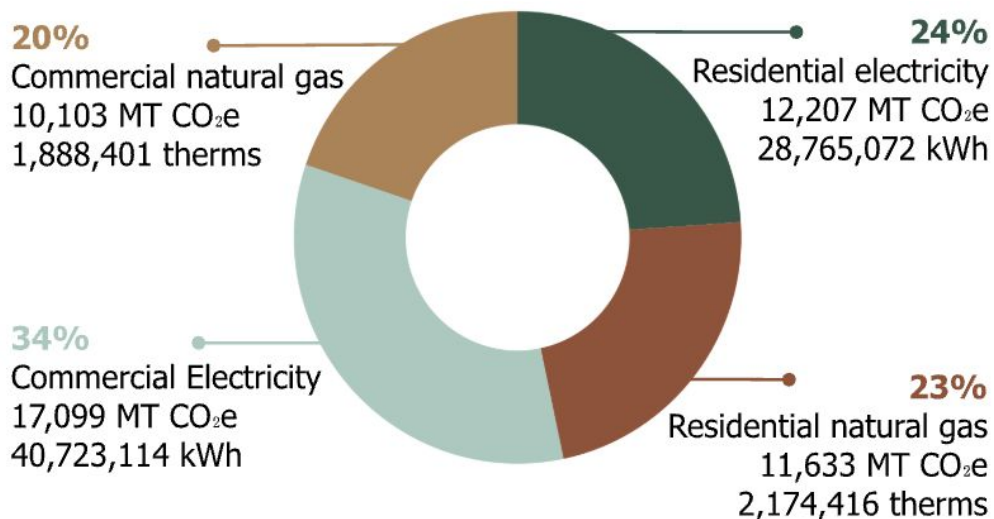
The image below highlights the percent of commuters leaving Rifle and their travel times.

*Distances not proportionate





GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY



53%

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

870 Commercial accounts



47%

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

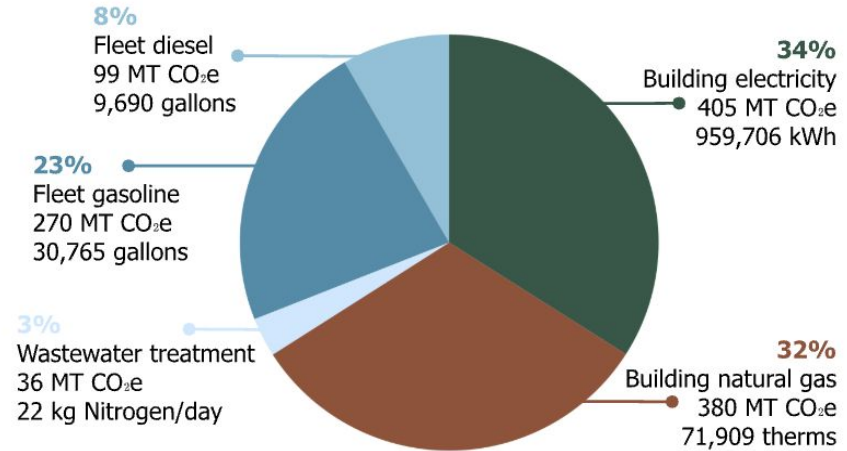
3,800 Residential accounts



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

Municipal operations

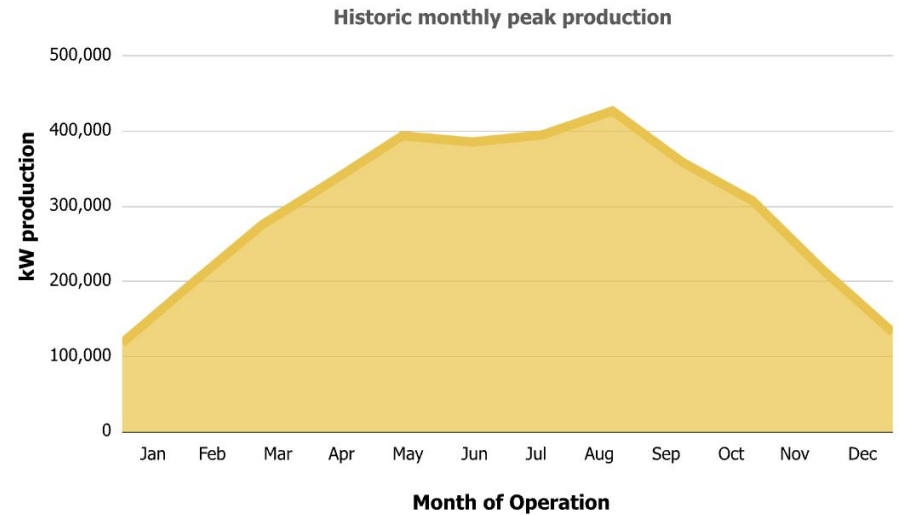
- In 2023, Rifle's municipal operations emissions totaled **1190 MT CO₂e**
- Lower emissions than in other similar communities partly due to the large amount of solar in Rifle some of which provides electricity for municipal operations buildings





SOLAR ANALYSIS

- Examined the utility-level data available for each solar array
- The City's arrays produced over **3 million kWh** of electricity in 2023
- Decrease operational electricity emissions by nearly 700 MT CO₂e
- Saves the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in electricity bills annually





VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Support planning for the impacts of a changing climate on the community and municipal infrastructure
- Evaluated climate history and projections
- Climate change impacts
 - Heat
 - Drought
 - Smoke
- Vulnerable populations

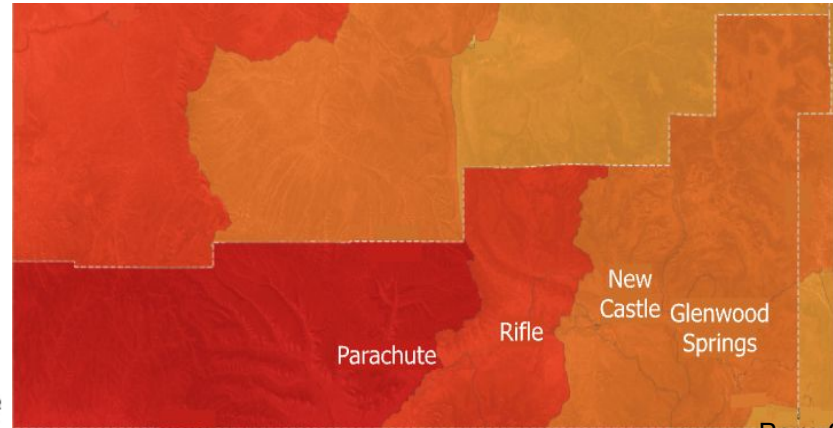
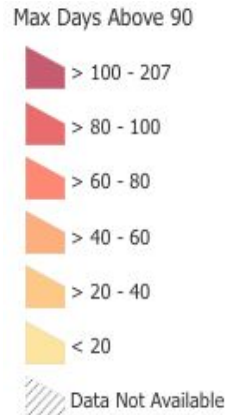




VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

- Extreme high temperatures and heat waves are increasing
- Effects: road and infrastructure/asphalt damage, steel expansion, water demand, water use, reduced ability to do construction projects, increased heat-related illness

Projected maximum days over 90 degrees by the end of the century

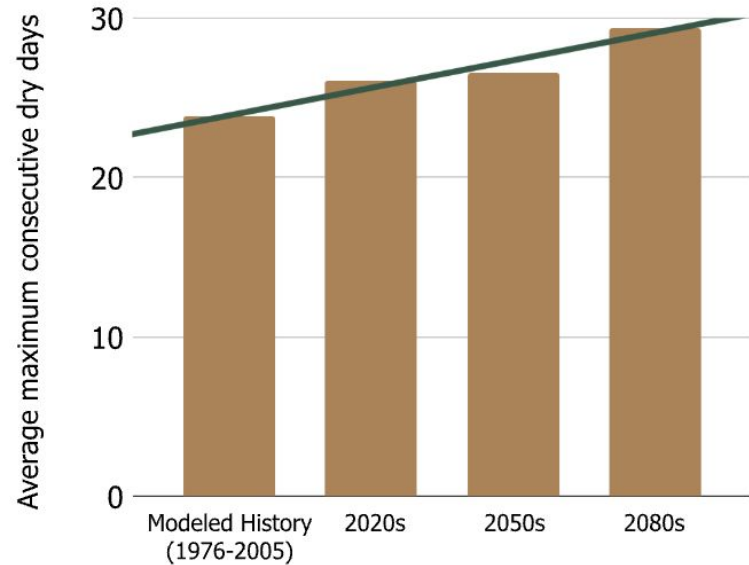




VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Drought and dry days are increasing in Rifle

- Drier soils
- Increased occurrence of flash floods or landslide with precipitation event
- Increased wildfire risk
- Increased demand on water treatment plants
- Disruption to commuting patterns





VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- All people face possible health effects from the different impacts of a warming climate
- Considered the populations at risk by reviewing assumptions for access to cooling and air purification, the general ability to help oneself, and the potential for time spent outdoors
- Some of the most vulnerable populations are listed in here

Population	Heat	Drought	Smoke	% of Rifle Population
Children, <5 years old	X	X	X	8.3%
Older Adults, > 64 years old	X	X	X	9.4%
Outdoor workers	X	X	X	9.4%
Communities of Color	X	X	X	43.7%
Commuters	X	X	X	71%

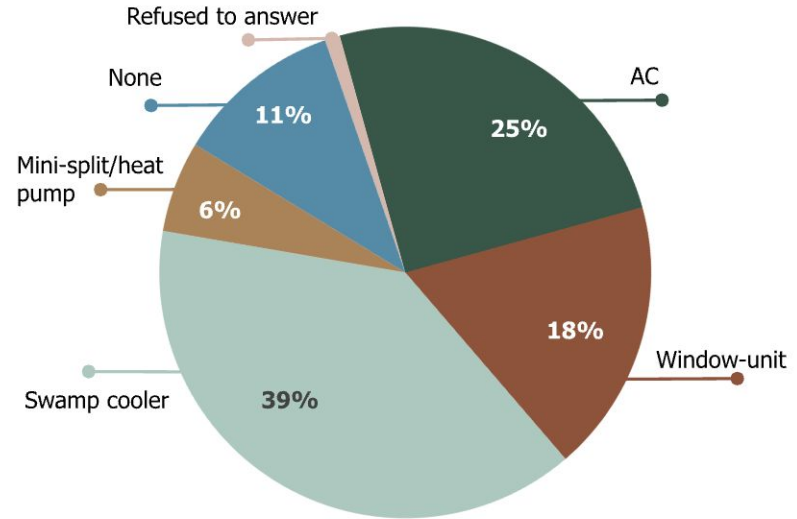


VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Air purification and cooling

- Access to air purification and cooling is critical to adapt to wildfire smoke and heat waves
- Only about 20% of homes in Rifle have a cooling system that also purifies the air
- ERAP strategies and action steps aim to address this issue

Type of cooling system in the home





WHERE WE'RE HEADED

STRATEGIES FOR ENERGY AND RESILIENCE

- ◆ FOCUS AREAS
- ◆ STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS



STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

- **Strategies:** broad, goal-oriented steps the City and residents can take to reduce energy use and increase resilience.
- **Action steps:** steps for how to achieve the identified strategies. They are specific enough to be clear and actionable, but typically are broad enough to encompass a variety of methods to take action.



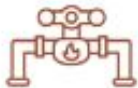
ERAP FOCUS AREAS



BUILT ENVIRONMENT: residential and commercial buildings and landscapes



TRANSPORTATION: alternative fuels, city fleets, multimodal transportation



MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS: solid waste, water and wastewater treatment, municipal facilities



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: workforce, economic diversification, and training opportunities



STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS



BUILT ENVIRONMENT: residential and commercial buildings and landscapes

- Improve energy efficiency in buildings citywide
- Reduce water use on properties in the community
- Prepare community assets and infrastructure for extreme weather and natural disasters
- Expand access to cooling and air purification
- Utilize land use principles for conservation of energy and land



STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

TRANSPORTATION: alternative fuels, city fleets, multimodal transportation

- Encourage biking and walking around the City
- Address impacts of extreme weather to transportation options
- Reduce fuel usage for City fleets
- Enhance community-based transit options
- Support expanded access to EV charging
- Improve traffic flows within the City





STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS: solid waste, water and wastewater treatment, municipal facilities





STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS STRATEGIES

- Increase waste diversion and reduction rates within the City
- Optimize City-owned solar production
- Improve energy efficiency and resilience of water and wastewater treatment infrastructure and distribution
- Reduce energy use in City facilities
- Reduce water use on municipal properties
- Address risks of a warming climate to City facilities
- Implement green infrastructure and shade cover in sites throughout the City





STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: workforce and economic diversification



- Provide clean energy and energy efficiency training opportunities for local workforce
- Prioritize local production and small businesses
- Support community and private sector partnerships for economic development
- Invest in clean energy at homes and businesses
- Support workforce health and safety during extreme weather events



DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

Thank you





Agenda Item #4.a.

Agenda Item Name:

Consider Minutes of the April 14, 2025, Regular PRAB Meeting

Presenter:

Kim Arnold, Parks Administrative Assistant

Item Description:

Meeting minutes from the April 14, 2025 PRAB meeting.

Recommended Action:

Move to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2025 regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Operational Impact:

N/A

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Background Information:

Consider the approval of the meeting minutes for the April 14, 2025, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

Executive Summary:

N/A

Notification Requirements:

N/A

Prepared By:

Kim Arnold, Parks Administrative Assistant

Attachments:

1. April 14, 2025 PRAB Minutes DRAFT

**Rifle Parks & Recreation
Board Minutes
April 14, 2025**

This meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Annie MacGregor.

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Ken Blatter	X	
Kirsten Clancy	X	
Aaron Cumming	X	
John Douglas	X	
Annie MacGregor	X	
Ari Philipson	X	
Betsey Seymour	X	
Jens Smith	X	

Staff Present Austin Rickstrew, Matt Rowe, Keith Gray, Kim Arnold

PUBLIC COMMENT. Annie was pleased with the strong turnout for the weekend race. Community members have shared positive feedback about the repairs to the RMP parking lot, and the new sidewalk at Davidson Park has been well received. Additionally, a citizen has proposed adding a road bike trail at the base of Stevens Hill.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES. The minutes from the March 10, 2025, meeting were approved following a motion by Annie MacGregor, which was seconded by Jens Smith and Kirsten Clancy. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Betsey requested a correction to her name, which was approved with this edit and has since been updated.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: SETTING PRIORITIES AND UPDATES FOR 2025-2026. The Board reviewed the Strategic Plan and proposed the following revisions:

- **Goal 2, Step 1:** Remove the statement, as it closely mirrors Step 2.
- **Goal 5, Step 3:** *Adopt A Trail* will remain in the Strategic Plan.
- **Goal 5, Step 4a:** Revise to improve clarity: "Market Vendor Application Better."

The updated Strategic Plan will be presented for adoption at the May PRAB meeting.

The Parks Projects List was reviewed, and time frames were discussed and added. It was suggested that engineering be pursued for Davidson Park and that a gravel lot be considered at the Highland Trailhead.

CITY OF RIFLE PARKS AND RECREATION NAMING POLICY. The board reviewed and discussed the policy and how it will be implemented.

JOINT WORKSHOP – PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MAY 12 – ENERGY AND RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN PRESENTATION. The next PRAB meeting, a Joint Workshop with the Planning and Zoning Commission, is scheduled for May 12. The meeting will feature an Energy and Resilience Action Plan presentation and will be held in the Commissioners’ Chambers, with dinner provided.

MOBILE VENDING PERMITS – CO-WAIIAN SHAVE ICE. The Mobile Vending Permit for CO-Waiian Shave Ice was approved.

REVIEW 70% OF DESIGN DOCUMENTS FOR BIRCH PARK. The Board reviewed 70% of the Design Documents. Birch Park's cost has increased, and work will be completed in phases. The Master Plan, themed “*The Sky is the Limit,*” will begin with dirt work in Phase 1.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS. Michael Churchill is interested in televising meetings again to promote transparency. He is asking whether meetings should be moved to the council chambers to facilitate this—something for consideration.

Upcoming community events include several 5K races in May.

The next PRAB meeting is on May 12, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT. Annie moved to adjourn the meeting, with Betsey seconding the motion. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:27 pm.

DRAFT



Agenda Item #6.a.

Agenda Item Name:

Mobile Vending Permits - Frostbite Limited

Presenter:

Austin Rickstrew, Parks & Recreation Director

Item Description:

Vending application for Frostbite Limited. Proposal to sell Ice cream sandwiches, popsicles, pints, and drumsticks via bicycle with a trailer and a cooler during June, July, and August. Days and hours are dictated by events.

Recommended Action:

Move to approve mobile vendor permit for Frostbite Limited for the 2025 vendor season.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Operational Impact:

N/A

Prior Board Motions:

The PRAB board has already approved one mobile vendor permit for 2025.

Background Information:

Staff is recommending approval of Frostbite Limited for the 2025 vendor season.

Executive Summary:

Notification Requirements:

Prepared By:

Kim Arnold, Parks Administrative Assistant

Attachments:

1. Frostbite Limited Application



Rifle Parks

Vending Policy 2025

a) Any vendor or organization desiring to distribute food or merchandise, for charge, or donation in any Rifle Park, shall first obtain a Parks Vending Permit or approval from the City of Rifle Parks and Recreation Department.

b) A vendor shall complete the required vending permit application available from the City of Rifle Recreation Department by **April 25th**. *(Organizations seeking permission for a single event must apply for permission at least 14 days prior to the event and will be allowed only one event (up to 3 days for that event) per year).*

c) Payment of the vendor permit fee is required at submission of the vending permit application to the Recreation Department and a permit fee shall be paid for each park in which the vendor seeks a permit.

d) The annual permit fee shall be \$50.00 and shall not be pro-rated. A Rifle Parks Vending Permit shall be valid for one year, from **May 1st** through **March 31st** of the following year.

e) A vending permit entitles a vendor to an exclusive vending location for each park in which a permit is obtained. Vendors may not vend from sites other than their approved exclusive location. Vendors may request a specific location but all vending locations are subject to approval by the Parks and Recreation Director or designee. Locations with electrical connections are limited and vary by park. An additional annual charge of \$50 will be assessed at the time of permit application if a vendor requests a location with electrical connection. Due to limited availability of such locations, the additional charge will apply whether or not the vendor uses the electrical connection. A vendor shall not connect to any City electrical service without approval and payment of the additional electrical connection fee.

f) A single vendor shall hold no more than one vendor permit per park.

g) The number of permits available per park is limited as follows and is subject to change based upon the determination of the Parks and Recreation Director:

- **Centennial Park: 3**
- **Deerfield Park: 2**
- **Rifle Mountain Park: 2**
- **Davidson Park: 1**
- **Civic Plaza: 1**
- **Remote Control Park: 1**

4. Operating Schedule

a. List your months, days and hours of operation (points given for more hours):
JUNE, JULY, ~~AUGUST~~ AUGUST
days and hours revolve
around ~~events~~ events

5. Applicant Food Vending Cart Experience

a. Have you previously owned or operated a mobile vending cart?

Yes No

If yes, when & where? _____

b. What products were sold?

6. Attach a copy of current Rifle Sales Tax License, and Food Vendors; please also attach a copy of GCDPHE food service license.

Branch Clancy _____
Applicant Signature Date

FrostBite Limited
Company Name

BRANCH K. CLANCY
Name

225 HUTTON AVE
Address

970-505-0982 0982 Kirsten.Barkar.J.
Phone E-mail @gmail.com



**PARKS &
RECREATION**

**CITY OF RIFLE
PARKS**

TEMPORARY VENDING USE/MOBILE VENDING UNIT APPLICATION 2025

Permitting Process

This is a competitive process. Applications for City of Rifle Parks Mobile Vending Permits are due to the Recreation Department by **3:00 pm on April 25th, 2025**. By **May 1st** each year, permits will be issued to vendors that meet all minimum criteria as listed herein until **March 31st** of the following year. If more valid applications are submitted by **April 25th** than are permitted in a location, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board shall choose vendors that receive the highest scores based on application criteria below. Permits will be valid from **May 1st** through **March 31st** of the following year. Cost of a permit is \$50 per year. Electrical connection to a nearby 120v outlet will be an additional \$50 per year.

New Application (attach separate pages if needed)

For renewal of existing permit, complete question #1, locations only, & questions #4, #5, and #6.

1. Cart Location, Size and Appearance

Choose your proposed location. If fewer valid applications are submitted than are permitted in each location, vendors may be permitted to operate in more than one location. See requirements for each location below. Refer to attached map for permitted vendor locations within each park. Please rank your preference from 1 to 5 with 1 being your most desirable location.

(* designates that electrical hook-up is available)

- Centennial Park A (vehicle based vendors are not permitted)
- Centennial Park B (vehicle based vendors are not permitted)
- Centennial Park C * (vehicle based vendors are not permitted)
- Deerfield Park A
- Deerfield Park B
- Rifle Mountain Park A
- Rifle Mountain Park B
- Davidson Park
- Civic Plaza * (max size of cart is 8' long x 6' wide x 8' tall)
- Remote Control Park
- Mobile Vending Unit Permit (Deerfield, Metro, Davidson, Centennial)



a. List the measurements of your cart/mobile vending unit.

51x28 + 50x30

b. What other equipment/materials will you have on the site (coolers, tents, etc.)

COOLERS

c. Vending carts/mobile vending units must be in good and neat condition and maintained as represented in the application. Describe your cart materials and colors - attach pictures to this application.

Roof: _____

Body: Bike and trailer with cooler

Accent Colors: _____

d. Vendors must provide a trash receptacle and pick up any trash surrounding the car. How will you deal with trash?

I will have a trash bag on my cart

e. Describe how your cart/mobile vending unit will be powered. (Power is available at a few sites for an additional \$50 per year)

by me it's a bike

f. Carts/mobile vending units must be taken out of the park when not in operation – NO EXCEPTIONS. How will you transport the cart to and from your site each day?

car

2. Product Uniqueness

Your product should be genuinely unique. Over-saturation of any product is undesirable and closely monitored. For example, if there are already coffee shops in close proximity (the same block as the cart opening), the concept of a coffee cart is not realistic, and not allowed.

a. Describe product(s) to be sold:

Drumstick
ice cream sandwiches
Popsicles
Pints

Price
\$ 3.00 per cone
\$ 3.00 per sandwich
\$ 2.00 per stick
\$ 7.00 per pint

b. What makes this a quality and unique product with good value?
(process ... ingredients ... materials ... design)

What makes this a quality and unique product with good value is convenience


~~c~~ If your product is sold elsewhere in the immediate vicinity, list those stores/restaurants:

\$ _____

\$ _____

\$ _____

d. Who is your intended market?

~~Families~~ Families at ~~Baseball~~ Base Ball 
~~Base Ball~~ games

3. Contribution to the Rifle Community

~~bad~~

a. How would your cart/mobile vending unit contribute to and strengthen the community and its activities through additional dining options, ambience, employment, or other community benefits?

ambience by having treats

b. Are the owners/operators of the cart/mobile vending unit residents of the City of Rifle? If not, where?

Yes

c. What locally grown, purchased, or manufactured goods will be used, when possible?

~~Ice~~ Ice cream will be purchased locally in Rifle

- h)** The size of a vendor's trailer, cart, mobile vending unit, or temporary structure and type of vending may be restricted or prohibited depending on the park and/or desired vending location within the park.
- i)** All vending related equipment and temporary structures must be removed from the vending location daily. No on-site storage will be allowed.
- j)** All permitted vendors shall comply with all applicable City, State and Federal laws and regulations and will be required to furnish a copy of their Rifle Sales Tax Permit, workers compensation insurance (*if applicable*) and, for food vendors, appropriate health inspections/permits.
- k)** All permitted vendors shall provide a certificate of insurance with the following information: \$1,000,000.00 combined single coverage indemnifying the City of Rifle. Insurance documents must list the City of Rifle as additionally insured as follows: "Additionally insured; City of Rifle, its officers, officials and employees." Insurance will be required prior to receiving a Rifle Parks Vending Permit.
- l)** Permits must be applied for annually, by published dates, and are not transferable.
- m)** Permits may be revoked by the City at any time, for any reason, without notice or reimbursement of fees.
- n)** Permitted vendors shall only operate during the days and times the park is open to the public.
- o)** Trash related to the vendors must be picked up by vendor before leaving the premises.
- p)** Vending by school groups related to hosting High School Sports at Deerfield Regional Park, may, at the city's discretion, be allowed to operate the Cooper Field Concession stand and/or the Skinner Field Concession stand during RHS baseball and RHS softball regular and post season games. Concession booth sales at Cooper Field and Skinner Field are limited to packaged snacks and bottled or canned drinks. No cooked food or food cooking is permitted.
- q)** User groups may, at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Director or designee, vend food for 1 event (*maximum 3 day event*), per season. Requests must be made with no less than 14 days advance notice to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- r)** Permitted public Special Events on City of Rifle or Rifle Parks property may result in the City offering additional limited-term vending permits and locations and/or allow non-profit and civic groups to vend in Rifle Parks free of charge without a vending permit. A City Sales Tax License or proof of non-profit status will be required from each Special Event vendor.
- s)** Determination of permitted vendors will be based on, resume/record of vendor, proposal of the vendor, number of vendors vs. number of spaces, appropriateness of the item or type of food being vended, as well as other related factors at the time of application.

City of Rifle Parks and Recreation

202 Railroad Avenue | P.O. Box 1908 | Rifle, CO 81650

www.rifleco.org

(970) 665 6574 Phone | (970) 625 6285 Fax | recreation@rifleco.org

families

STATE COUNTY
COLORADO GARFIELD

Must collect
taxes for:
**SALES TAX
LICENSE**

USE ACCOUNT NUMBER for all references	LIABILITY INFORMATION					ISSUE DATE			LICENSE VALID TO DECEMBER 31
	county	city	industry	type	liability date	month	day	year	
96563625-0001	24-0035-006	L	042025	Mar	25	25	2025		

THIS LICENSE MUST BE POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION
IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE: BRANCH CLANCY
225 HUTTON AVE RIFLE CO 81650-2851

**THIS LICENSE IS NOT
TRANSFERABLE**



FROSTBITE LIMITED
225 HUTTON AVE
RIFLE CO 81650-2851

Richard Thompson
Executive Director
Department of Revenue

Letter Id: L1259893392

▲ Detach Here ▲
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Now that you have your license, here's what you need to know:

- Use the letter ID above and go to **Colorado.gov/RevenueOnline** to set up your online access, manage your account, file electronic returns and submit payments. Paper returns will NOT be mailed to you.
- Both your sales tax return AND payments are due by the 20th day of the month following the end date of the reporting period in order to avoid any penalty and/or interest. Be sure you know what your filing frequency is in order to avoid missing due dates.
 - *Monthly filer* due dates: On the 20th day of the month following the reporting period end date.
 - *Quarterly filer* due dates: April 20th, July 20th, October 20th and January 20th.
 - *Annual filer* due dates: January 20th following the reporting period end date.
- If no sales were made during the reporting period, you are still required to file a return to report zero sales were made during the reporting period. Otherwise, the Department of Revenue will assess a non-filer estimate for tax.
- All licensed retailers are required to collect and remit all state-collected sales taxes based on the location where their products are delivered.
- State law requires you to collect sales tax from your customers solely for the purpose of remitting those taxes to the Colorado Department of Revenue. Businesses are entrusted with collecting and remitting taxes that belong to the State of Colorado and local jurisdictions.
- Your Colorado Sales Tax License must be displayed in a conspicuous place at your physical location.
- Your license must be renewed and the renewal fee paid at the end of the license period ending December 31 of odd-numbered years in order to maintain a valid license. Failure to renew your license will invalidate your license, but it won't automatically close your account. In order to close your account and cease any future liability, you must file form DR 1102 with the Department of Revenue.
- Having a Colorado Sales Tax License gives you the privilege to purchase non-taxable items-for-resale. Items that you consume in the course of your business are not included in this privilege.

We strongly recommend that you set up your Revenue Online account as soon as possible in order to remain compliant. If you have any questions regarding sales tax in Colorado, then please visit our website Colorado.gov/tax and click on "Education and Legal Research" for helpful FYIs, Regulations, Letter Rulings and Statutes. While there, you can also sign up for free Public Sales Tax Classes.

Thank you for registering with the Colorado Department of Revenue.



Rifle > Business Center

Action Center

MESSAGES 1

[Click HERE for FAQ's](#)

ALERTS

No alerts at this time

OPEN TASKS

You have 1 unread messages

Frostbite Limited

Application for New Sales Tax License

▶ Pending Approval: New Business Approval (new)

Manage Your Account(s) i

Print your License, or make account changes by clicking on your account(s) below.

Account Name	DBA	Lic#	Code
Frostbite Limited	Frostbite	070102	LAP4VM

▶ Add or remove accounts from your user login by clicking here.

Manage Your User Account i

USER/ LOGIN OR EMAIL ADDRESS UPDATE: Click [HERE](#) to register a new email address. Be sure to jot down your 6 Digit Account Number and 6 Digit Activation Code from the Manage Your Account section above first!

NO LONGER MANAGE AN ACCOUNT? To remove this user email from managing an account, Click [HERE](#), and use the red "Remove" Button to remove yourself from the account.

Activity i (Note - Form and Receipt Data May Not Be Available for Imported / Historical Data from Prior MUNIREvs Versions or Other Systems)

Newer		Older		Results 1 - 0 of 0	
Action	Status	Due Date	Amount	Form	
No Business Activity Found					

Newer		Older		Results 1 - 0 of 0	
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Agenda Item #6.b.

Agenda Item Name:

Consider Adoption of Strategic Plan Priorities and Updates 2025-2026

Presenter:

Austin Rickstrew, Parks & Recreation Director

Item Description:

PRAB review of the Strategic Plan. Goal is to set their priorities for the upcoming year as well as to update any projects that are left from the previous year.

Recommended Action:

Move to adopt the 2025-2026 Strategic Plan and recommend adoption to the City Council..

Fiscal Impact:

This plan guides the department on priorities and project importance.

Operational Impact:

The operational impact will depend on its recommendations. Implementation may require reallocating staff time, adjusting workflows, or prioritizing new initiatives. If the plan includes capital projects or program expansions, additional resources may be needed for execution.

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Background Information:

N/A

Executive Summary:

The strategic planning process is critical for setting a clear direction for the department's future and aligning efforts to achieve long-term success. The updates to the strategic plan are designed to reflect current needs and priorities, incorporating feedback from the community, staff, and other relevant groups. These updates will provide a roadmap for achieving the department's vision and mission while addressing challenges and seizing opportunities. The process includes regular review and assessment to ensure that goals remain relevant and attainable in the face of evolving circumstances. The updates will also help the department focus on measurable outcomes, ensuring each goal is actionable, specific, and aligned with broader city initiatives. This approach will support achieving immediate and long-term objectives, improve operational efficiency, and foster stronger community engagement, ultimately contributing to a well-managed, responsive, and sustainable department. By maintaining a strong strategic direction, the department will continue to grow, innovate, and meet the community's evolving needs while ensuring that resources are used effectively and efficiently.

Notification Requirements:

Prepared By:

Austin Rickstrew, Parks & Recreation Director

Attachments:

1. 4.8.25 Parks Projects List
2. Strategic Plan 2025-2026
3. 5 Year Road Map DRAFT
4. Strategic Plan 2024

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Item:

Constructed picnic shelters at Davidson Park.
Completed Centennial Park Phase I, Spray Park, Amphitheater, picnic shelters, Sun dial, shade structures, Great
Upgraded playground surfacing at Arnold Park.
Upgraded surfacing at Moki Park.
Completed construction of new concession stand, press box, bleachers, dugouts, planter boxes and concrete
Installed parking lot lighting at Deerfield Park.
Construct Morrow trail.
Constructed soccer pitch/turf area with RE-2 at Wamsley Elementary.
Construct Rifle Creek trail segment-11th Street to City Market.
Construct boat ramp and trail.
Upgraded playground surface at Heinze Park playground.
Upgraded playground surface at Deerfield Park playground.
Replaced roof on Heinze gazebo.
Installed Bleachers at Taughenbaugh field. (Now Skinner Field -- 2019)
Installed Playground at Centennial Park.
Painted Pickle Ball Court at Tennis Courts.
Refurbished and re-dedicated Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial at Heinze Park.
Installed drinking fountain at Centennial Park.
Replaced Davidson Park fence
Added basketball court at Palomino Park
Completed RMP map
Rifle Climber's Coalition installed signs at RMP
Replaced DRP basketball court lighting
GOCO Grant Award \$217,500 for Aquatic Play Structure and shade shelter
Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District (GCFMLD) Grant Awarded- \$500,000 for Art Dague Pool
Installed Scoreboard at RMS Auxiliary Gym
Off Grid Solar upgrades at RMP host cabin/office.-- supports I.T. improvements and internet and staff/PD
Construct Rifle Pool Renovation Project; New Lap lane pool, zero depth entry pool, improvements to catch pool,
remodel bathhouse, improved concessions, changing rooms, concessions.
Safety Fencing at Joyce Park Playground and Palomino Park Basketball Courts, vehicle gates installed at Parks
Metro Park/Pool Parking lot was repaired, crack sealed, seal-coated, and re striped prior to the opening of the

Addendum 1: Approximate Timeline--Parks Projects Updated March 4, 2022

*Costs shown may be actual/current, or are rough estimates for future projects. Except for the pool project, no dollars have been invested in planning or design for refined estimates.

#NAME?	Year/ Priority	2025 priority	Time Frame	Location	Item	Estimated/Cost	Notes:	Completed/other
			(TBD)	Acacia Trail	Add trail lighting/street lighting			
			(TBD)	All Parks	Security Cameras	\$ -	I.T. planning, --Prioritize Parks, long term-phase (Comes out of IT budget	
GRANT \$			2025	Birch Park	Construct Playground , Parking area, Picnic Shelter	\$ 4,250,000.00	LWCF 1.2 Million (PENDING) - GOCO 1 Million (PENDING) - City 650,000	Council '2019
			(TBD)	Centennial Park	Complete Centennial Park	\$ 2,500,000.00	Complete the Master Plan	
GRANT \$			(TBD)	Centennial Park	Complete Cent Park-Remove Solar,Install Hard wired LED Trail Lights/north end, lights on south end	\$ 85,000.00	Safety Concern--Estimates are being sought	
			(TBD)	Colorado River (Rifle Island Park)	Participate in Developing River Plan (Work with Planning dept.)	\$ -	GRANT \$	Council '19
GRANT \$			(TBD)	Community Parks, Open Space and Trails Master Plan	Master Plan All Park locations	\$ 300,000.00		
			(TBD)	Davidson Park	Parking Lot Replacement	\$ 100,000.00		
GRANT \$			2025	Deerfield Park	Complete DFP Trails and Sidewalks	\$ 200,000.00	Cooper planters, Complete Landscape,	
			(TBD)	Deerfield Park	Compete DFP Covered dugouts on all fields	\$ 800,000.00	Skinner, Roan, Graham, Bookcliff, and Hogback	
			(TBD)	Deerfield Park	Chainlink Fence Replacement Project	\$ 100,000.00		
			(TBD)	Deerfield Park	Baseball/Softball Field Renovations	\$ 200,000.00	Five Fields	
			(TBD)	Deerfield Park	Musco LED Retrofit Project	\$ 700,000.00		
			(TBD)	Deerfield Park	Playground Replacement	\$ 200,000.00		
			(TBD)	Deerfield Park	Skinner/Graham Concession Area Upgrades	\$ 65,000.00	Concrete under Pavillion/ADA Access to Pavillion	
			(TBD)	Field House/Community Center - Construction	Build Field House/Community Center	\$ 20,000,000.00	Fort Morgan built in 2021 for 9.3 Million	
			(TBD)	Field House/Community Center - Design/Construction	Design and Construction Documents	\$ 350,000.00		
			(TBD)	Field House/Community Center - Feasibility Study	Feasibility Study to determine location, price and size.	\$ 100,000.00		
			(TBD)	Field House/Community Center - Land Acquisition	Purchase Land for Field House/Community Center	\$ 1,500,000.00	Pending if the City has land or if it needs to be acquired	
			(TBD)	Metro Park	Replace Picnic Shelter	\$ 275,000.00		
GRANT \$			(TBD)	Metro Park	Pump Track and Expand Skate Park	\$ 1,000,000.00		
			(TBD)	Metro Park	Re-Plan the Metro Park Area	\$ 35,000.00	This could be combined with POST Master Plan	
GRANT \$			(TBD)	Metro Park	Determine use of Dirt Jump Area	\$ -	Target what community wants within survey. Could Fit in the POST Master Plan	
			(TBD)	Palomino Park	Shade Structure	\$ 100,000.00		
			(TBD)	Rifle Metro Pool	New slide	\$ 300,000.00		
			(TBD)	Rifle Metro Pool	Resurface Leisure Pool	\$ 100,000.00		
			(TBD)	Rifle Metro Pool	Resurface Comp Pool	\$ 150,000.00		
			(TBD)	Rifle Mountain Park	Replace chinking on Community House	\$ 12,500.00		
			(TBD)	Rifle Mountain Park	Master Plan - Build Out	\$ 2,500,000.00	Theming, landscape, screening between campsites	
			(TBD)	Rifle Mountain Park	Clean up RMP Dead Trees	\$ 150,000.00	Partner with CSU Extention and Colorado State Forest Service/BLM	
			2025	South Rifle property	Master Plan	\$ 50,000.00	May be able to include this in Community Park Master Plan????	
Total Amount						\$ 36,122,500.00		

COMPLETED PROJECTS				
Location	Item	Estimated/Cost	Notes:	Completed:
Metro Action Park	Action Park Lights Repaired/ Replaced	\$ 58,000.00		2016
Deerfield Park	Fun timbers, ewf playground upgrades	\$ 4,500.00		2016
Heinze Park	Gazebo Roof Replacement	\$ 8,000.00	architectural shingles	2016
Centennial Park	Playground equipment	\$ 375,000.00	Donations, CTF, CHF, Rotary, VIF, Private Donors	2017
Art Dague Pool	Concept & Schematic design	\$ 71,396.98	Complete in 2017 pending election	2017
Taughenbaugh Softball Field (Skinner Field 2019)	Elevated Bleacher System	\$ 78,000.00	& host RHS lady Bears Softball	2017
Art Dague Pool	Engage Const Manager as Advisor, PVCMI	\$ 82,000.00	Per Council Recommendation- 2017, continued 2018+	
Art Dague Pool	CM-GC Pre-Construction Services	\$ 21,900.00	FCI part 1 agreement	2018
Art Dague Pool	DD, CD, Const. Admin fee	\$ 283,185.00	Jeff Johnson Architectural engaged as of May 2, 2018	2018
Palomino Park	Added basketball court and new Bison Goals	\$ 14,000.00	fall 2018	2018
Davidson Park	South Fence replaced with vinyl clad c-link	\$ 6,264.00	spring/summer	2018
Rifle Middle School, Re-2 IGA	Scoreboard in auxiliary gym	\$ 7,032.00	late 2018	2018
Deerfield Park	Replace Basketball Court light poles, lights	\$ 5,668.56		2018
Joyce Park	Swings, fun timbers, fall zone	\$ 8,000.00	Swings, fun timbers, fall zone	2020
Metro Park	Crack fill and sealcoat <i>following pool construction</i>	\$ 15,976.00	Crack fill and sealcoat <i>following pool construction</i>	2020
Joyce Park	Safety fence at playground.	\$ 11,000.00	Safety fence at playground.	2020
Palomino Park	Safety fence for basketball court, along 24th	\$ 5,500.00	Safety fence for basketball court, along 24th	2020
Skinner Field Concession	Complete DFP Upgrade Skinner Concessions	\$ 1,000.00	Complete DFP Upgrade Skinner Concessions	2022
Promontory Park	Plan/ Design Promontory Park	\$ 105,000.00	Plan/ Design Promontory Park	2022
Metro Park	Look into Field House, Gym Multi-purpose?	\$9.3 Million/Ft. Morg	Look into Field House, Gym Multi-purpose?	2022
Deerfield Park	Upgrade Basketball Court Surface	\$ 18,076.00	Upgrade Basketball Court Surface	2018
Metro Pool	Completed Pool	\$ 6,067,996.00		
Skinner Field	Light Replacement	\$352,443	Old lights failed in 2022	2023
Skinner Field	Safety Fence	\$33,840	Request from community/council to update safety fencing	2023
All Fields	Bleacher Replacement	\$43,576	CIRSA Recommendation	2023
Skinner Field Concession	Seal and Paint Concession/Restroom exterior	\$9,000		2023
Grotto	Dog Park	\$140,000	Paid for in part by CVT Funds	2023
Moki Park	Replace Playground Per Insurance Recommendation	\$ 150,000.00		2024
Arnold Park	Replace Playground Per Insurance Recommendation	\$ 150,000.00		2024
Deerfield Park	Complete DFP Parking Lot Islands	\$ 100,000.00		2024
Community Survey 2024 (5 year intvl)	Community Survey 2024 (5 year intvl)	\$ 17,000.00		2024
Metro Park	Remove Concession/Storage Area	\$ 1,500.00		2024
		\$ 8,244,853.54		

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan 2025-2026



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Adoption:

Facilitator: Austin Rickstrew

PRAB Adoption: February 10, 2025

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Executive Summary

Strategic planning is a process for clarifying the aspirations of a Board and Staff. It establishes goals to be met and identifies broad strategies to achieve them.

Everything that happens in an organization is driven by its values. These are the principles and beliefs that explain why the organization exists. Values define the goals and boundaries of behavior for the board, staff, and volunteers in their interactions with each other, with clients, and with the community.

Values are the things we believe are important. Values govern the way we behave, communicate, and interact with others. Values help us determine our priorities. Values are a small set of general guiding principles not to be compromised for short-term financial gain or expediency. Below are the values the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Staff set forth.

Mission

The mission is a summary of the means that the organization will employ to achieve its vision. The mission statement answers the question, “Why do we exist?”

“To put forth the highest level of parks, programs, facilities, and services necessary, to establish Rifle as the premier recreational community on the Western Slope.”

Vision

The vision is a picture of the future state of the community we serve as a result of our work. Our vision statement is our destination.

“We strive to enrich lives through quality parks, programs, facilities, and services.”

Values

When an organization’s values appear as guiding principles, a code of conduct, or a culture code that explains how the organization intends to operate in accordance with those values, a values statement makes a promise. Complimentary to the City’s values, Parks & Recreation has identified additional values that guide how they provide services.

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Values

- Integrity
- Community
- Collaboration
- Safety
- Leadership
- Positive Attitude

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan Values

The City of Rifle Parks & Recreation's vision is to be nimble, responsive, and innovative in serving our community.

Goals



Promote healthy lifestyle through year-round recreational and leisure opportunities.



Complete, landscape and beautify all parks.



Continue investment of park and recreation programs, parks, trails, open space, indoor & outdoor facilities, maintenance, equipment, and reserves.



Provide optimal work space, resources, and staff support for efficient operations.



Build/maintain relationships and collaborate with outside organizations

Goal 1: Promote a healthy lifestyle through year-round recreational and leisure opportunities.

Strategy #1: Develop Recreational Programs (dependent on community needs and availability of funding)

Action Steps

1. Identify opportunities to increase activities, either upon request or as opportunities are made available.
2. Implement year-round opportunities for public recreational activities.
3. Study opportunities for new recreational and leisure activities.

Strategy #2: Improve Rifle Mountain Park

Action Steps

1. Repair and maintain the Community House.
2. Use the Department of Corrections, Boy Scouts, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and volunteers to work at RMP.
3. Identify programs and activities that better utilize Rifle Mountain Park.
4. Improve parking in RMP (Follow Master Plan).
5. Add Information Center (Bulletin Board) in RMP to advertise things that are happening in town.

Goal 2: Work to maintain, complete, landscape, and beautify all parks.

Strategy #1: Increase funding for parks through grants and donations. Consider funding for ongoing maintenance costs.

Action Steps

1. Identify potential grant opportunities.
2. Secure other funding opportunities.
3. Review and expand business advertising and collaboration opportunities. (Baseball/Softball Field Score Boards)
4. Develop a list of all known Parks Capital Projects.
5. Prioritize projects with estimated timelines. (Refer to Addendum 1)

6. Collaborate with the State and Federal Forest Service to help with trees. (Deadfall and wildfire mitigation)

Strategy #2: Implement a list of known projects based on appropriated funds

Action Steps

1. Prioritize Projects with estimated timeline.
2. Use completed master plans to phase projects.
3. Seek grant funding opportunities.

Strategy #3: Create a unified approach – theme to beautify City Parks

Action Steps

1. Uniform signage and planned themes.
2. Translate signs to Spanish. (Physical or QR Code)
3. Community Master Plan.
4. Adopt a Trail Program (this is newly fully implemented)

Strategy #4: Deter Vandalism in City Parks

Action Steps

1. Keep trash picked up.
2. Cover up vandalism within 24 hours.
3. Develop a program collaborating with community resources to deter and clean up graffiti.
 - a. Use lighting as a deterrent. Remove solar and replace with LEDs at Centennial and add lights going south to 3rd street.
 - b. Explore alternative measures such as security cameras.
 - c. Work with Rifle Police Department.
 - d. Increase and maintain security. (Ask Kelly about adding cameras in each park for 2026)

Goal 3: Continue investment of park and recreation funds for recreation programs, parks, trails, open space, indoor and outdoor facilities, operations, maintenance, equipment, and reserves.

Strategy #1: Conduct Strategic Planning quarterly.

Action Steps

1. Review Strategic Plan quarterly.
2. Develop a five-year plan.
3. Conduct a community survey every five years. (2029)
4. Develop a capital reserve and investment strategy.
5. Coordinate with the City Planning Department for trail development.

Goal 4: Provide optimal workspace for efficient operations.

Strategy #1: Identify opportunities for Parks & Recreation Department workspace.

Action Steps

1. Evaluate the current work area and provide a work area to meet staff needs (i.e., privacy, line of sight for supervision, proximity to work groups).
2. Identify adequate storage for equipment and supplies (present and future).
3. Evaluate opportunities for expansion in existing facilities.
4. Build Field House (5-10 Year Plan).

Goal 5: Build/maintain relationships and collaborate with outside organizations.

Strategy #1: Partner with other organizations.

Action Steps

1. Continue to collaborate and maintain relationships with existing partners.
 - a. RE-2 School District
 - b. Rifle Climbing Coalition
 - c. Forest Service

2. Identify and build new relationships with community partners.
 - a. RAMBO
 - b. Colorado Outfitters Association
3. Identify and partner with Private Business
 - a. Market Vendor Application Better

Strategy #2: Evaluate the Marketing Plan

Action Steps

1. Evaluate and maintain current marketing strategies
2. Review Marketing Plan

Next Steps

- Update Strategic Plan annually.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Staff review and approve the document.
- Participate in City Strategic Planning Process.
- Review quarterly.

Appendix A – Beliefs

Beliefs are convictions that we generally hold to be true, usually without actual proof or evidence. Beliefs grow from what we see, hear, experience, read and think about.

- Parks and recreational activities foster human development, promote health and wellness, strengthen community image and sense of place, efficiently utilize resources, demonstrate fiscal responsibility, develop and cultivate partnership, support economic development, protect environmental resources, develop and empower staff, and increase cultural unity.
- Recreational activities should develop one physically, socially, and emotionally by enhancing athletic, cultural, and life skills.
- Programs should adapt to changing needs, age, and culture of the community.
- Participation in programs enhances one's education, promotes sportsmanship, advocacy, inclusiveness, and develops good citizenship, and overall well-being.
- A variety of recreational opportunities should be available to everyone.
- Amenities should meet the needs of a diverse population by providing a safe, clean, affordable, well-balanced, educational, wholesome, enjoyable, and rewarding experience.
- Investments in parks maintenance and improvements provide dividends that enhance the quality of life, property values, and the community's self-perception.
- Recreational activities enhance the quality of life in Rifle.
- Operations should be efficient, maintaining the facilities we currently have before building new facilities.
- Support high quality youth and adult programs through collaborative efforts.

Appendix B – Strategic Planning Participants

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:

- Annie MacGregor Board Member/Chairman
- Aaron Cumming Board Member/Vice Chairman
- Ken Blatter Board Member/Secretary
- Jens Smith Board Member
- John Douglas Board Member
- Betsey Seymour Board Member
- Kirsten Clancy Board Member
- Ari Philipson Board Member
- Chris Bornholdt Council Liason

Parks & Recreation Staff:

- Austin Rickstrew Parks & Recreation Director
- Kim Arnold Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant
- Matt Rowe Recreation Program Manager
- Keith Gray Parks & Facilities Maintenance Manager
- Kyle Mills Recreation Coordinator
- Taylor Walters Recreation Coordinator
- James Magnuson Parks Maintenance Worker
- Jon Hutchinson Parks Maintenance Worker
- David Lowery Grounds & Facilities, Building Maintenance, Cemetery Supervisor

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan

(2024-2029)

Year 1: 2024-2025 - Foundation & Assessment

Goal 1: Expand Recreational Opportunities

- Identify and implement new year-round recreational programs.
- Conduct a community needs assessment to determine desired activities.
- Enhance Rifle Mountain Park by repairing the Community House and organizing volunteer efforts.

Goal 2: Park Beautification & Maintenance

- Identify and apply for grants and alternative funding sources.
- Develop a comprehensive inventory of park projects.
- Implement an Adopt-a-Trail program and uniform park signage.

Goal 3: Investment in Facilities & Operations

- Conduct a citywide survey for community feedback on parks and recreation.
- Develop a capital reserve and investment strategy.
- Coordinate with city planning for trail expansion.

Goal 4: Optimize Workspaces

- Evaluate current office space and storage needs.
- Develop a plan for field house construction (long-term plan).

Goal 5: Strengthen Partnerships

- Strengthen existing relationships with RE-2 School District and the Rifle Climbing Coalition.
- Build new partnerships with groups like Colorado Outfitters Association.

Year 2: 2025-2026 - Implementation & Growth

Goal 1: Recreational Growth

- Launch new recreational activities based on community feedback.
- Expand winter and summer programs.

Goal 2: Infrastructure & Beautification

- Prioritize and begin implementing beautification projects.
- Upgrade lighting at Centennial Park and install additional security measures.
- Begin transitioning signage to bilingual (Spanish & English).

Goal 3: Capital Investment & Expansion

- Establish a capital improvement fund for parks and recreation projects.
- Secure grants and sponsorships for new projects.
- Conduct annual strategic review and adjust plans accordingly.

Goal 4: Facility Development

- Begin initial planning and feasibility study for field house development.
- Expand storage solutions for park maintenance equipment.

Goal 5: Community Collaboration

- Expand Adopt-a-Trail program to engage more community members.
- Develop a marketing strategy to promote parks and recreation offerings.

Year 3: 2026-2027 - Scaling & Innovation

Goal 1: Recreational Access & Equity

- Ensure all community members have access to affordable recreational activities.
- Develop new programs targeting underserved populations.

Goal 2: Sustainable Park Management

- Increase green initiatives such as water-efficient landscaping and recycling programs.
- Continue enhancements to Rifle Mountain Park.

Goal 3: Financial Strength & Resource Allocation

- Develop long-term financial sustainability strategies.
- Launch new business advertising opportunities (e.g., scoreboard sponsorships).

Goal 4: Office & Facility Development

- Identify possible locations for expanded workspace.
- Secure partial funding for the field house project.

Goal 5: Strengthen Marketing & Outreach

- Implement a more targeted marketing campaign to increase program participation.
- Evaluate digital strategies, including QR code signage.

Year 4: 2027-2028 - Expansion & Modernization

Goal 1: Enhanced Recreational Programs

- Introduce specialized programs such as adaptive sports and outdoor education.
- Strengthen partnerships with schools for joint recreational offerings.

Goal 2: Major Infrastructure Improvements

- Complete at least 50% of identified capital projects.
- Install security cameras in high-risk areas to deter vandalism.

Goal 3: Economic & Environmental Sustainability

- Increase corporate sponsorships and fundraising efforts.
- Conduct feasibility study on sustainable revenue models.

Goal 4: Office & Facility Expansion

- Secure remaining funding for the field house project.
- Expand workspaces to accommodate growing staff needs.

Goal 5: Expand Collaborative Networks

- Establish new partnerships with regional and state-level organizations.
- Engage local businesses in community-driven recreation projects.

Year 5: 2028-2029 - Long-Term Sustainability

Goal 1: Recreational Excellence

- Conduct a five-year review and update programming to meet evolving needs.
- Host large-scale community events promoting active lifestyles.

Goal 2: Parks & Open Spaces

- Finalize remaining beautification projects.
- Complete major upgrades to Rifle Mountain Park.

Goal 3: Infrastructure & Financial Strength

- Finalize capital reserve strategy ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Implement a self-sustaining model for parks and recreation funding.

Goal 4: Field House Completion

- Complete construction of the field house.
- Develop programming and staffing plans for new facility.

Goal 5: Community Legacy & Future Planning

- Document the impact of past improvements.
- Launch a new strategic planning process for the next five years

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan 2024



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Adoption:

Facilitator: Austin Rickstrew

PRAB Adoption: 1/22/2024

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Executive Summary

Strategic planning is a process for clarifying the aspirations of a Board and Staff. It establishes goals to be met and identifies broad strategies to achieve the goals.

Everything that happens in an organization is driven by the organization's values. These are the principles and beliefs that explain why the organization exists. Values define the goals and boundaries of behavior for board, staff, and volunteers in their interactions with each other, with clients, and with the community.

Values are the things we believe are important. Values govern the way we behave, communicate and interact with others. Values help us determine our priorities. Values are a small set of general guiding principles, not to be compromised for short-term financial gain or expediency. Below are the values set forth by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and staff.

Mission

The mission is a brief summary of the means that the organization will employ to achieve its vision. The mission statement answers the question, "Why do we exist?"

"To put forth the highest level of parks, programs, facilities and services necessary, to establish Rifle as the premier recreational community on the Western Slope."

Vision

The vision is a picture of the future state of the community we serve as a result of our work. Our vision statement is our destination.

"We strive to enrich lives through quality parks, programs, facilities, and services."

Values

When an organization's values appear as guiding principles, a code of conduct, or a culture code that explains how the organization intends to operate in accordance with those values, a values statement makes a promise. Complimentary to the City's values, Parks and Recreation has identified additional values that guide how they provide services.

City of Rifle Parks & Recreation Values

- Integrity
- Community
- Collaboration
- Safety
- Leadership
- Positive Attitude

City of Rifle Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan Values

The City of Rifle Parks and Recreation’s vision is to be nimble, responsive and innovative in serving our community.

Goals



Promote healthy lifestyle through year-round recreational and leisure opportunities.



Complete, landscape and beautify all parks.



Continue investment of park and recreation programs, parks, trails, open space, indoor & outdoor facilities, maintenance, equipment and reserves.



Provide optimal work space, resources, and staff support for efficient operations.



Bulid/maintain relationships and collorbrate with outside organizations

Goal 1: Promote healthy lifestyle through year-round recreational and leisure opportunities.

Action Steps :

Strategy #1: Expand Recreational Programs (dependent on community needs and availability of funding)

Action Steps

1. Identify opportunities to increase activities, either upon request or as opportunities are made available.
2. Implement year-round opportunities for public recreational activities.
3. Study opportunities for new recreational activities.
4. Identify programs and activities that better utilize Rifle Mountain Park.

Strategy #2: Improve Rifle Mountain Park

Action Steps

1. Repair and maintain Community House.
2. Use Department of Corrections, Boy Scouts, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, and volunteers to do work at RMP.

Goal 2: Work to maintain, complete, landscape, and beautify all parks.

Strategy #1: Increase funding for parks through grants and donations. Consider funding for ongoing maintenance costs.

Action Steps

1. Identify potential grant opportunities.
2. Secure other funding opportunities.
3. Review and expand business advertising opportunities (Baseball/Softball Field Score Boards.)
3. Develop list of all known Parks Capital Projects.
4. Prioritize projects with estimated timeline. (Refer to Addendum 1)

Strategy #2: Implement list of known projects based on appropriated funds

Action Steps

1. Prioritize Projects with estimated timeline.
2. Use completed master plans to phase projects.
3. Seek grant funding opportunities.

Strategy #3: Create a unified approach - theme to beautify City Parks

Action Steps

1. Uniform signage and planned themes.
2. Translate signs to Spanish (Physical or QR Code)
3. Community Master Plan
4. Adopt a Trail Program

Strategy #4: Deter vandalism in City parks

Action Steps

1. Keep trash picked up.
2. Cover up vandalism within 24 hours.
3. Develop program to collaborate with community resources to deter and clean up graffiti.
 - a. Use lighting as a deterrent. Remove solar and replace with LEDs at Centennial and add lights going south to 3rd street.
 - b. Explore alternative measures such as security cameras.
 - c. Work with Rifle Police Department.
 - d. Increase, maintain security.

Goal 3: Continue investment of park and recreation funds for recreation programs, parks, trails, open space, indoor and outdoor facilities, operations, maintenance, equipment, and reserves.

Strategy #1: Conduct Strategic Planning annually.

Action Steps

1. Review Strategic Plan Annually.
2. Develop a five-year plan.
3. Conduct a community survey every 5 years. (2024)
4. Develop a capital reserve and investment strategy.
5. Coordinate with City Planning Department for trail development.

Goal 4: Provide optimal work space for efficient operations.

Strategy #1: Identify opportunities for Parks & Recreation Department workspace.

Action Steps

1. Evaluate current work area and provide work area to meet staff needs. (i.e., privacy, line of site for supervision, proximity to work groups)
2. Identify adequate storage for equipment and supplies. (present and future)
3. Evaluate opportunities for expansion in existing facilities.
4. Build Field House (5-10 Year Plan)

Goal 5: Build/maintain relationships and collaborate with outside organizations.

Strategy #1: Partner with other organizations.

Action Steps

1. Continue to collaborate and maintain relationships with existing partners.
 - a. RE-2 School District
 - b. Rifle Climbing Coalition
2. Identify and build new relationships with community partners.
 - a. Rambo
 - b. Colorado Outfitters Association
3. Adopt-a-trail Program
 - a. Develop and implement the program

Strategy #2: Evaluate Marketing Plan.

Action Steps

1. Evaluate current marketing strategies
2. Develop new Marketing Plan

Next Steps

1. Update Strategic Plan Annually.
2. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Staff review and approve document.
3. Participate in City Strategic Planning Process.

Appendix A – Beliefs

Beliefs are convictions that we generally hold to be true, usually without actual proof or evidence. Beliefs grow from what we see, hear, experience, read and think about.

- ❖ Parks and recreational activities foster human development, promote health and wellness, strengthen community image and sense of place, efficiently utilize resources, demonstrate fiscal responsibility, develop and cultivate partnership, support economic development, protect environmental resources, develop and empower staff, and increase cultural unity.
- ❖ Recreational activities should develop one physically, socially, and emotionally by enhancing athletic, cultural, and life skills.
- ❖ Programs should adapt to changing needs, age, and culture of the community.
- ❖ Participation in programs enhances one’s education, promotes sportsmanship, advocacy, inclusiveness, and develops good citizenship, and overall well-being.
- ❖ A variety of recreational opportunities should be available to everyone.
- ❖ Amenities should meet the needs of a diverse population by providing a safe, clean, affordable, well-balanced, educational, wholesome, enjoyable, and rewarding experience.
- ❖ Investments in parks maintenance and improvements provide dividends that enhance the quality of life, property values, and the community’s self-perception.
- ❖ Recreational activities enhance the quality of life in Rifle.
- ❖ Operations should be efficient, maintaining the facilities we currently have before building new facilities.
- ❖ Support high quality youth and adult programs through collaborative efforts.

Appendix B – Strategic Planning Participants

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Kevin Kelly	Board Member/Chairman
Aaron Cumming	Board Member/Vice Chairman
Annie Macgregor	Board Member/Secretary
Trudy Lowery	Board Member
Kevin Blatter	Board Member
Michael Clancy	Board Member
Josi Kander	Board Member
Chris Bornholdt	Council Liason

Parks and Recreation Staff:

Austin Rickstrew	Parks and Recreation Director
Angie Wilkins	Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant
Matt Rowe	Recreation Manager
Keith Gray	Parks and Facilities Maintenance Manager
Kyle Mills	Recreation Coordinator
Taylor Walters	Recreation Coordinator
James Magnuson	Parks Maintenance Worker
Jon Hutchinson	Parks Maintenance Worker
David Lowery	Grounds and Facilities, Building Maintenance,Cemetery Supervisor



Agenda Item #6.c.

Agenda Item Name:

Consider a Formal Recommendation to the City Council for the Energy and Resilience Action Plan

Presenter:

Austin Rickstrew, Parks & Recreation Director

Item Description:

Consider a formal recommendation to the City Council for the Energy and Resilience Action Plan.

Recommended Action:

Move to approve the formal recommendation to City Council and allow the board chair to sign the letter.

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Operational Impact:

N/A

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Background Information:

CLEAR and City staff have worked with a stakeholder group to create the ERAP. Part of the process is asking the P&Z and PRAB boards to make formal recommendations to the City Council for its adoption. After receiving a presentation from CLEAR, PRAB will be asked to make a recommendation and submit it in writing to the City Council.

Executive Summary:

N/A

Notification Requirements:

Prepared By:

Austin Rickstrew, Parks & Recreation Director

Attachments:

None