

7.3 Town of Eaton

“The Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Eaton is intended to be a statement of the collective vision for Eaton’s future. The goals and policies within the plan define the values that are important to the community. ...These overall goals set forth our intent and describe our mission.” - 2018

Overall Community Goals:

- Preserve a sense of community, high quality schools, a sense of safety, and a sense of history.
- Allow planned growth, high quality and affordable housing, and sustainable growth.
- Encourage the maintenance and improvement of existing commercial and industrial businesses.
- Encourage a balance of new commercial and industrial development that will serve the community’s needs.
- Encourage new jobs to keep the economy balanced and provide opportunities for those who wish to live and work in the community.
- Enhance the provision of local services, including those provided by local government or the private sector.
- Enhance the existing community programs that make the Eaton community strong and assure that this sense of community remains strong.
- Promote affordable and comfortable housing for senior citizens and maintain the related programs that support them.
- Avoid land uses and development activities that damage Eaton’s environment and its community resources.
- Eliminate any environmental contamination of abandoned buildings and related land uses.
- Manage the growth that is likely to occur in the Eaton community and develop and maintain the new and the existing infrastructure that will serve that growth.
- Work with other community agencies and organizations to solve issues, plan for future growth, and build the best possible Town.

7.3.1 Community Profile

The Town of Eaton is located 7 miles north of Greeley, along US Route 85. It is located on the Denver, Colorado-Cheyenne, Wyoming mainline of the Union Pacific Railroad.

The local economy’s foundation has a long history rooted in agriculture. Eaton takes pride in that foundation and considers itself the Town of “Beef, Beets and Beans” Retail businesses, professional services and industrial development have helped to diversify the economy and with continued growth are expected to strengthen the tax base for the Town.

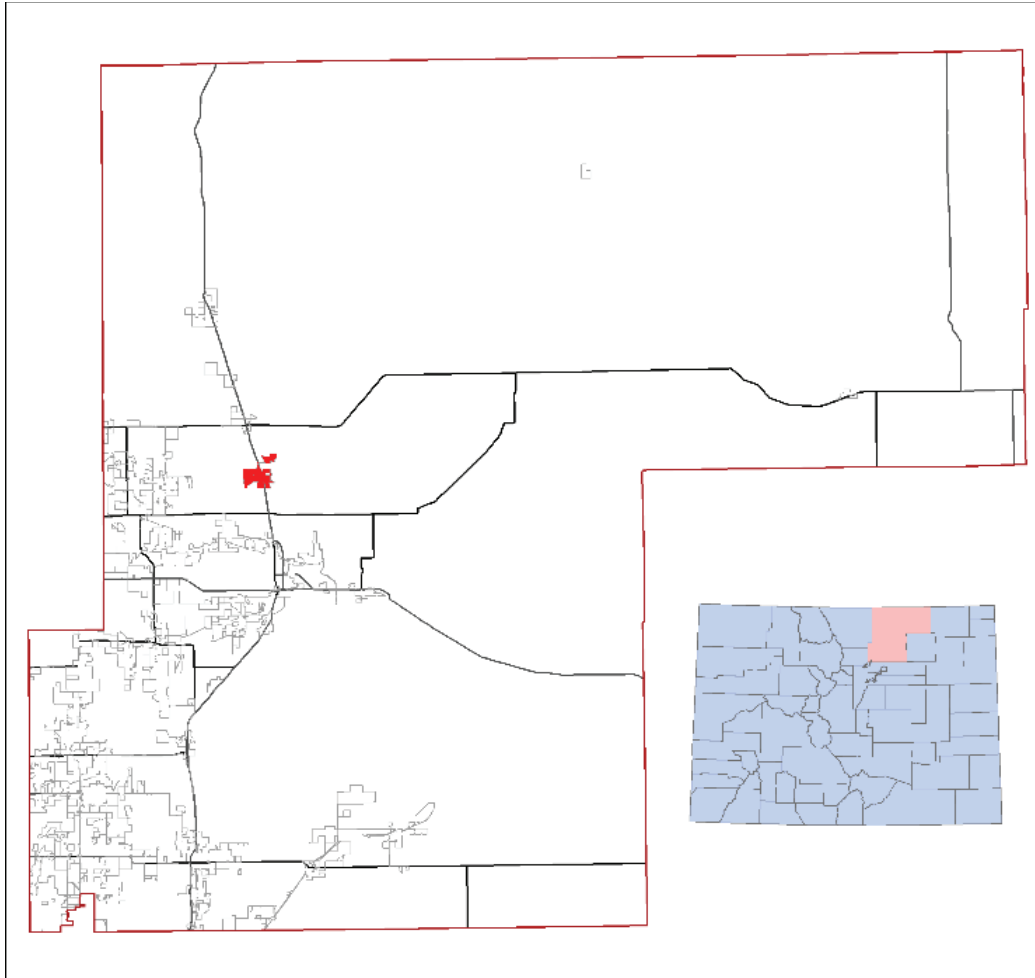


Table 82 shows some development information for the Town of Eaton. Current information for specific characteristics of the population is only available from the US Census Bureau for municipalities with populations over 5,000 people, until each decennial census.

Table 82. Town of Eaton Demographics

Eaton	Colorado	
5,707	5,758,736	Population, 2019
30.3%	14.5%	Population, % change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019
2.77	2.56	Persons Per Household, 2019

Note: Recent data is unavailable from the US Census Bureau for some categories, based on the size of the municipality. Source: US Census Bureau

7.3.2 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Table 83 summarizes the results of the RF ranking exercise performed by the Town of Eaton. The results represent the relative risk of different hazards across the municipality from the perspective of local stakeholders and subject matter experts. Note the final RF Ranking values in this table include the weighting factors detailed in the Risk Assessment chapter of this Plan.

Table 83. Risk Factor Results for Eaton

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	RF Ranking
Agricultural Hazards	2	3	3	4	4	2.9
Cyber Hazards	3	2	3	4	3	2.8
Drought	3	1	4	1	4	2.5
Earthquake	1	3	3	4	1	2.3
Extreme Temps.	3	1	4	3	1	2.4
Flood	1	1	2	4	2	1.6
Hazmat Release	2	2	4	4	3	2.7
Land Subsidence	1	1	2	4	4	1.8
Prairie Fire	3	2	2	4	1	2.4
Public Health Hazards	4	2	3	1	4	2.9
Severe Storms	4	3	4	2	3	3.4
Tornado & Wind	3	3	3	2	1	2.7

The conclusions drawn from the qualitative assessment are organized into three categories shown in the following table and provide a summary of hazard risk for Eaton as a whole - based on High, Moderate, or Low risk designations. This process helped frame ongoing planning discussions around local and regional hazard risks and assisted with the development of the Plan's updated mitigation strategy.

Table 84. Hazard Risk Conclusions for Eaton

HIGH RISK (2.5 or higher)	Agricultural Hazards, Cyber Hazards, Drought, Hazmat Release, Public Health Hazards, Severe Storms, Tornado & Straight-Line Wind
MODERATE RISK (2.0 – 2.4)	Earthquake, Extreme Temperatures, Prairie Fire
LOW RISK (1.9 or lower)	Flood, Land Subsidence

The following sections highlight the Town of Eaton's High Risk hazards and include any specific content relevant to the Town. They are intended to supplement information included in each hazard profile in the main body of this Plan.

7.3.2.1 Agricultural Hazards (including Disease & Pests)

Vulnerability to agricultural hazards is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Those communities whose economies are more dependent on the agriculture industry do experience higher risk to these hazards. There are no previous events to document specific to Eaton. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.3.2.2 Cyber Hazards

For any municipality, vulnerability to cyber hazards does not vary from that of the County as a whole. While there are no documented cyber events impacting Eaton, the threat of this hazard is continually increasing. There are no previous events to document specific to Eaton. Future occurrences are

expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.3.2.3 Drought

The community vulnerability to drought is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Those communities whose economies are more dependent on the agriculture industry do experience higher risk to this hazard. There are no previous events to document specific to Eaton. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.3.2.4 Hazmat Release

Vulnerability to hazmat release is increased for the Town of Eaton, mainly due to the location of a CDOT hazardous materials route through the community. Additionally, railroads span across Eaton which present their own increased risk for hazmat release. As is true for the entire County, the presence of any businesses that store hazardous materials also increases the risk for these types of events.

Based on data supplied by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Incident Reports Database there have been two events that have occurred within Eaton between 1991 and 2019. These were due to improper preparation for transport and mishandling.

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.3.2.5 Public Health Hazards

Vulnerability to public health hazards is not expected to be noticeably different from the rest of the County. Individuals at a higher risk to this hazard include the aging adult population, those with a chronic illness, such as diabetes, asthma, coronary heart disease, and those who are obese or overweight. Other populations at risk include children, those in poverty and those with a disability. This data is collected at census tract level by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and is unavailable at a municipality level. The data by census tract can be found in the Colorado Department of Health and Environment Open Data database [here](#).

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. There are no previous events to document specific to Eaton. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details, including a summary of the higher risk population demographics for Weld County and the State.

7.3.2.6 Severe Storms (including Hail, Lightning, & Winter Storm)

Vulnerability to severe storm, which includes hail, lightning, and winter storm, is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Eaton's more densely developed areas experience the greatest risk, in addition to potential greater losses to the agriculture sector. Any structures not constructed to meet recent building codes experience the greatest risk from structural damages.

According to the NOAA's Storm Events Database, between 2015 and 2020, the Town of Eaton has had eleven severe storm which resulted in reports of hail. The hail in these storms ranged in size from 0.75 inches to 1.75 inches. There was no reported damage to property or crops and no injuries or deaths.

No other events for severe storm, specific to Eaton, were recorded over this time period.

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.3.2.7 Tornado & Straight-Line Wind

Vulnerability to tornado & straight-line wind is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Eaton's more densely developed areas experience the greatest risk, in addition to any structures not constructed to meet recent building codes.

According to the NOAA's Storm Events Database, between 2015 and 2020, one event, an EF0 tornado, was reported. A brief landspout caused minor damage to a farmstead, although no claims for property damage were reported. There were no injuries and no deaths.

No other events for severe storm, specific to Eaton, were recorded over this time period.

Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.3.3 Capabilities Assessment

The capability assessment examines the ability of the Town of Eaton to implement and manage the comprehensive mitigation strategy laid out in this Plan. The strengths, weaknesses, and resources of the community are identified here as a means for evaluating and maintaining effective and appropriate management of the Town's hazard mitigation program.

Planning and regulatory capabilities are powerful tools for implementing hazard mitigation. The Town currently utilizes or has implemented a number of these capabilities shown in Table 85. It is important for all municipalities to regularly review each of these tools, to identify opportunities for further risk reduction efforts.

Table 85. Planning & Regulatory Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Comprehensive, Master, or General Plan	Yes	Eaton Comprehensive Plan- last update 10/2020
Capital Improvement Program or Plan (CIP)	No	Future project
Floodplain Management Plan	No	Eaton Draw
Stormwater Program / Plan	No	Water restrictions, Drought Plan next year
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	No	
Erosion / Sediment Control Program	Yes	City of Greeley -standards
Economic Development Plan	No	
Other:	No	
Building Codes (Year)	Yes	2018 Updated building codes- (Procode) 3rd party contractor for inspections
Site Plan Review Requirements	No	Baseline Engineering
Other:	No	
Zoning Ordinance (Land Use)	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	Yes	

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Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Flood Insurance Study / Flood Insurance Rate Map / DFIRM	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Elevation Certificates for Floodplain Development	No	Eaton Draw
Community Rating System (CRS) Participant	No	
Open Space / Conservation Program	No	Tension, retention, no formal program
Growth Management Ordinance	Yes	
Stormwater Ordinance	Yes	
Other Hazard Ordinance (steep slope, wildfire, snow loads, etc.)	No	Building Code- snow load for houses
Other:	No	

Available resources including staff, municipal groups, and technology are all vital for a community to be able to implement hazard mitigation. Eaton is fortunate to have most all of these capabilities identified in Table 86.

Table 86. Administrative & Technical Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Planning Commission	Yes	Eaton Planning Commission
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	May be a possibility going forward
Maintenance Programs (tree trimming, clearing drainage, etc.)	Yes	Eaton Public Works, Maintenance
Emergency Manager	Yes	Jeff Schreier
Building Official	Yes	John Gesick
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Jeff Schreier
Community Planner	Yes	Vince Harris
Transportation Planner	Yes	Vince Harris
Civil Engineer	Yes	Greeley- Brad Curtis
GIS Capability	Yes	Started 2019
Resiliency Planner	No	
Other:	No	
Warning Systems / Services (flood)	No	
Warning Systems / Services (other / multi hazard)	Yes	Code Red, IPAWS
Grant Writing / Management	Yes	Jeff Schreier
Other:	No	

The ability of a community to implement a comprehensive mitigation strategy is largely dependent on available funding. These related municipal capabilities are outlined in Table 87 and show that Eaton utilizes some financial tools that can support mitigation activities.

Table 87. Financial Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval	No	
Utilities Fees	Yes	Town of Eaton, Water/Sewer/Irrigation/Trash Enterprise funds
System Development / Impact Development Fee	Yes	Impact Fees
General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Open Space / Conservation Fund	No	
Stormwater Utility Fees	No	
Capital Improvement Project Funding	No	
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	No	future East Eaton, Jeff Schreier on the committee
Withheld spending in hazard-prone areas	No	
Other:	No	

Education and outreach are important capabilities that allow a community to continue the conversation with their public regarding hazard risk and opportunities to mitigate. Table 88 shows that Eaton could benefit by expanding upon these capabilities.

Table 88. Education & Outreach Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Public Hazard Education / Outreach Program	No	
Local Citizen Groups That Communicate Hazard Risks	No	
Firewise	No	
NOAA StormReady Program	In Progress	Storm Spotter classes, shelter (board chambers)
Other:	No	

7.3.4 Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning

The Town of Eaton intends to integrate this plan into all future planning efforts and will evaluate existing and future zoning ordinances to ensure alignment with the best available hazard data and overall mitigation strategy. Future plans to integrate include: comprehensive plan, stormwater management plan, continuity of operations plan, and post-disaster development plan.

7.3.5 Mitigation Actions

The mitigation actions identified by the Town during the Plan update are included in Table 89.

Table 89. 2021 Mitigation Actions

ID	Organization	Action
2021-21	1-Eaton	Drought Plan Development
2021-22	2-Eaton	Roundabout Collins Rd & CR35
2021-23	3-Eaton	Pump Pit