

7.7 City of Fort Lupton

“The City of Fort Lupton will be a premier destination of the Front Range. Well positioned to capture growth and investment on the periphery of the Denver area, Fort Lupton will have numerous opportunities to shape its future. Combining quality living with a variety of services and amenities, the City will become a prominent community within Colorado.”

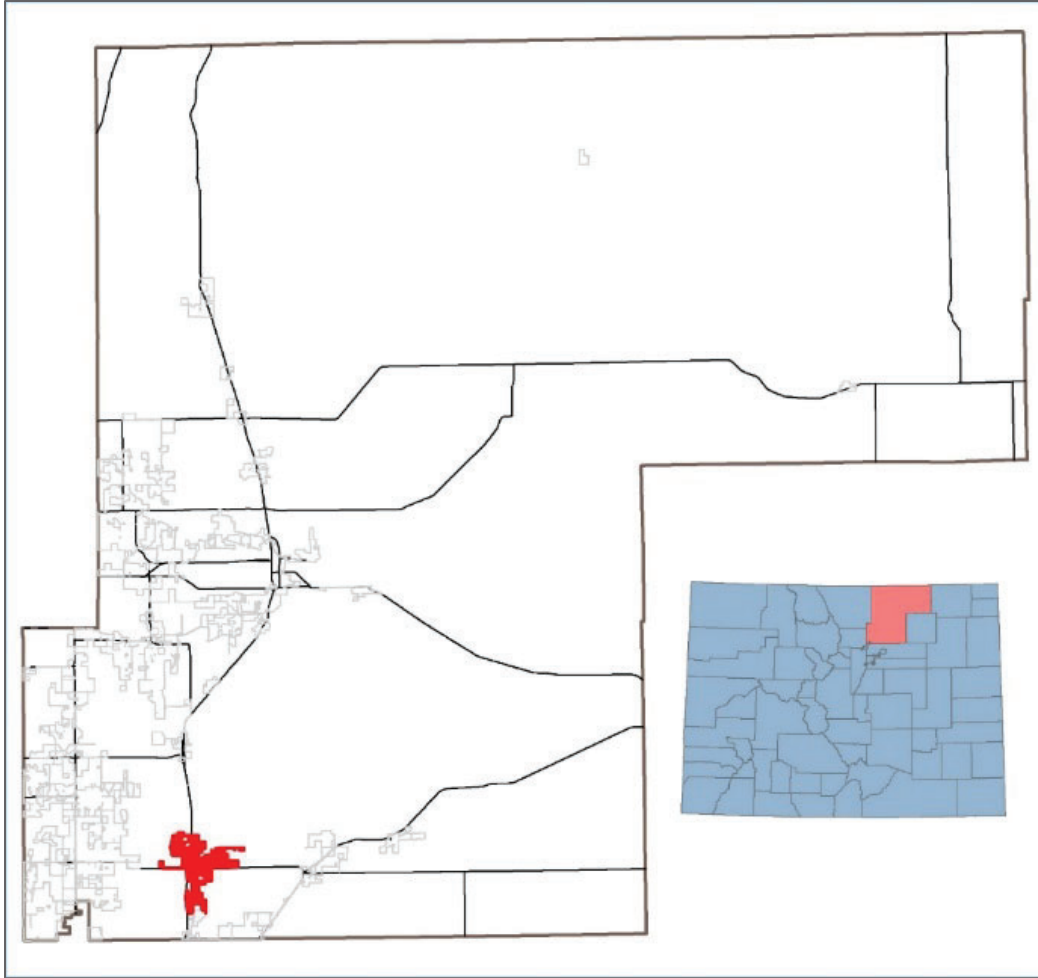
– City of Fort Lupton Comprehensive Plan 2018

One of the primary goals of Fort Lupton is to become a sustainable city that provides ample opportunities for residents to live, learn, work and play. The Comprehensive Plan addresses the following areas in the work toward achieving that goal:

- Growth and Development
- Subarea Plans
- Regional Presence
- Transportation and Mobility
- Parks, Open Space & Environmental Features
- Public Facilities and Services
- Implementation

7.7.1 Community Profile

The City of Fort Lupton is located along the South Platte River, approximately 26 miles north of Denver, 23 miles south of Greeley, and 24 miles east of Boulder. Fort Lupton is positioned at the intersection of US Highway 85 and Colorado Route 52, providing access to Interstate 25 to the west and Interstate 76 to the east as well as the greater Denver and Front Range regions.



The table below summarizes key demographic and development related characteristics of the City of Fort Lupton.

Table 114. City of Fort Lupton Demographics

Fort Lupton	Colorado	
8,317	5,758,736	Population, 2019
12.2%	14.5%	Population, % change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019
8.1%	5.8%	% Population under 5 years, 2019
28.9%	21.9%	% Population under 19 years, 2019
10.2%	14.6%	% Population 65 years and over, 2019
72.0%	64.9%	Homeownership Rate, 2019
3.09	2.56	Persons Per Household, 2019
\$63,548	\$68,811	Median Household Income, 2014- 2018
7.7%	9.3%	Persons below poverty level, %, 2014- 2018
11.2%	7.3%	% Population under 65 years, with a disability 2014-2018
34.2%	17%	Language other than English spoken at home, % age 5+, 2014- 2018

Source: US Census Bureau

7.7.2 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Table 115 summarizes the results of the RF ranking exercise performed by the City of Fort Lupton. 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 115. Risk Factor Results for Fort Lupton

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	RF Ranking
Agricultural Hazards	1	1	2	1	4	1.5
Cyber Hazards	3	2	1	4	4	2.5
Drought	3	2	4	1	4	2.8
Earthquake	1	3	4	4	2	2.6
Extreme Temps.	2	2	4	1	4	2.5
Flood	2	2	2	3	3	2.2
Hazmat Release	3	2	1	4	2	2.3
Land Subsidence	1	1	1	4	3	1.5
Prairie Fire	2	2	2	4	2	2.2
Public Health Hazards	2	3	4	1	4	2.8
Severe Storms	3	3	3	4	1	2.9
Tornado & Wind	3	3	4	4	1	3.1

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 Fort Lupton 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 116. Hazard Risk Conclusions for Fort Lupton

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

Since the 2016 Plan, the City has increased the assessed risk from earthquake and tornado & straight-line winds to High Risk (both formerly Moderate). The City has also increased the assessed risk from extreme temperatures and severe storm to High Risk (both formerly Low). Besides the newly added hazards of agricultural hazards and cyber hazards, all other risk rankings remain the same.

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

7.7.2.1 *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 City of Fort Lupton, the threat of this hazard is continually increasing. There are no previous events to document specific to Fort Lupton. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

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

7.7.2.3 *Earthquake*

Vulnerability to earthquake is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. The City of Fort Lupton's more densely developed areas experience the greatest risk, in addition to any structures not constructed to meet recent building codes. There are no previous events to document specific to Fort Lupton. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.7.2.4 *Extreme Temperatures*

Vulnerability to extreme temperatures 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 due to potential crop and livestock losses. Additionally, individuals at a higher risk to extreme temperatures include those with mobility issues, independent living difficulty, the elderly, low-income families, outdoor laborers, and those experiencing homelessness. Data for these demographics is collected at census tract level, however snapshot data for populations that can fluctuate drastically, such as the number of outdoor laborers and those experiencing homelessness is not included. These are still considerable populations in the County and City of Fort Lupton and local efforts to quantify these populations periodically can help with mitigation planning.

The data for high risk populations has been analyzed by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and has been used to create Community Inclusions [maps](#). These maps can be zoomed into specific census tracts for municipalities and communities, illustrating the population variances. Refer to Chapter 4 for examples of these maps for Weld County.

There are no previous events to document specific to the City of Fort Lupton. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.7.2.5 *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 Fort Lupton. 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.

7.7.2.6 Severe Storm (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. Fort Lupton'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 City of Fort Lupton has had ten severe storm events. All of these events resulted in reports of hail, which ranged in size from 0.88 inches to 2 inches. None of these events resulted in reported damage to property or crops and no injuries or deaths.

No other events for severe storm, specific to Fort Lupton, 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.

7.7.2.7 Tornado & Straight-Line Wind

Vulnerability to tornado & straight-line wind is not noticeably different from the rest of the County. Fort Lupton'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, there was one (1) report of an EF0 tornado in Fort Lupton. The event did not cause damage to property or crops and no injuries or deaths.

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

7.7.3 Capabilities Assessment

The capability assessment examines the ability of the City of Fort Lupton 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 City's hazard mitigation program.

Planning and regulatory capabilities are powerful tools for implementing hazard mitigation. The City currently utilizes or has implemented some of these capabilities shown in Table 117. It is important for all municipalities to regularly review each of these tools, to identify opportunities for further risk reduction efforts.

Table 117. Planning & Regulatory Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Comprehensive, Master, or General Plan	Yes	
Capital Improvement Program or Plan (CIP)	Yes	
Floodplain Management Plan	No	

WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Stormwater Program / Plan	No	
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	Yes	
Erosion / Sediment Control Program	No	
Economic Development Plan	No	
Other:	No	
Building Codes (Year)	Yes	ICC FIRE CODE 2012
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	
Other:	No	
Zoning Ordinance (Land Use)	No	
Subdivision Ordinance	No	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	Yes	
Flood Insurance Study / Flood Insurance Rate Map / DFIRM	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Elevation Certificates for Floodplain Development	No	
Community Rating System (CRS) Participant	No	
Open Space / Conservation Program	No	
Growth Management Ordinance	No	
Stormwater Ordinance	No	
Other Hazard Ordinance (steep slope, wildfire, snow loads, etc.)	No	
Other:	No	

Available resources including staff, municipal groups, and technology are all vital for a community to be able to implement hazard mitigation. Fort Lupton could benefit by developing the capabilities identified in Table I 18.

Table I 18. Administrative & Technical Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Planning Commission	No	
Mitigation Planning Committee	No	
Maintenance Programs (tree trimming, clearing drainage, etc.)	No	
Emergency Manager	No	
Building Official	No	
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	
Community Planner	No	
Transportation Planner	No	
Civil Engineer	No	

WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
GIS Capability	No	
Resiliency Planner	No	
Other:	No	
Warning Systems / Services (flood)	Yes	CodeRed
Warning Systems / Services (other / multi hazard)	Yes	Local Sirens
Grant Writing / Management	Yes	Internal
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 I 19 and show that Fort Lupton utilizes a range of financial tools that can support mitigation activities.

Table I 19. Financial Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval	Yes	Until 2022 for Station 2
Utilities Fees	No	
System Development / Impact Development Fee	No	
General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt	Yes	Station 2
Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Open Space / Conservation Fund	No	
Stormwater Utility Fees	No	
Capital Improvement Project Funding	Yes	
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	No	
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 I 20 shows that Fort Lupton could benefit by expanding upon these capabilities.

Table I 20. Education & Outreach Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Public Hazard Education / Outreach Program	No	
Local Citizen Groups That Communicate Hazard Risks	No	

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Firewise	No	
NOAA StormReady Program	No	
Other:	Yes	Fire Safety

7.7.4 Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning

The City will integrate hazard mitigation actions into our Capital Improvements Plan by emphasizing projects that mitigate the impacts of our highest risk hazards. The City will also incorporate from the HMP as appropriate in plan updates or creations, specifically related to the stormwater management plan, floodplain management plan, and continuity of operations plan. The City will encourage collaborative planning and implementation and inter-agency coordination through:

- Involving key community officials with the authority to execute policies and programs to reduce risk.
- Collaborating across departments and agencies with key staff to help share knowledge and build relations that are important to the successful implementation of mitigation activities.

7.7.5 Mitigation Actions

The new mitigation actions identified by the City during the Plan update are included in Table 121. One action from the 2016 Plan has been carried over into the City's updated mitigation strategy.

Table 121. 2021 Mitigation Actions

ID	Organization	Action
2021-41	1-Fort Lupton	Warning Sirens
2021-42	2-Fort Lupton	Emergency Notification Signs
2021-43	3-Fort Lupton	Water Storage
2021-44	4-Fort Lupton	Well Inclusions
2021-45	5-Fort Lupton	Localized Flooding
2021-46	6-Fort Lupton	Emergency Shelter Generator