

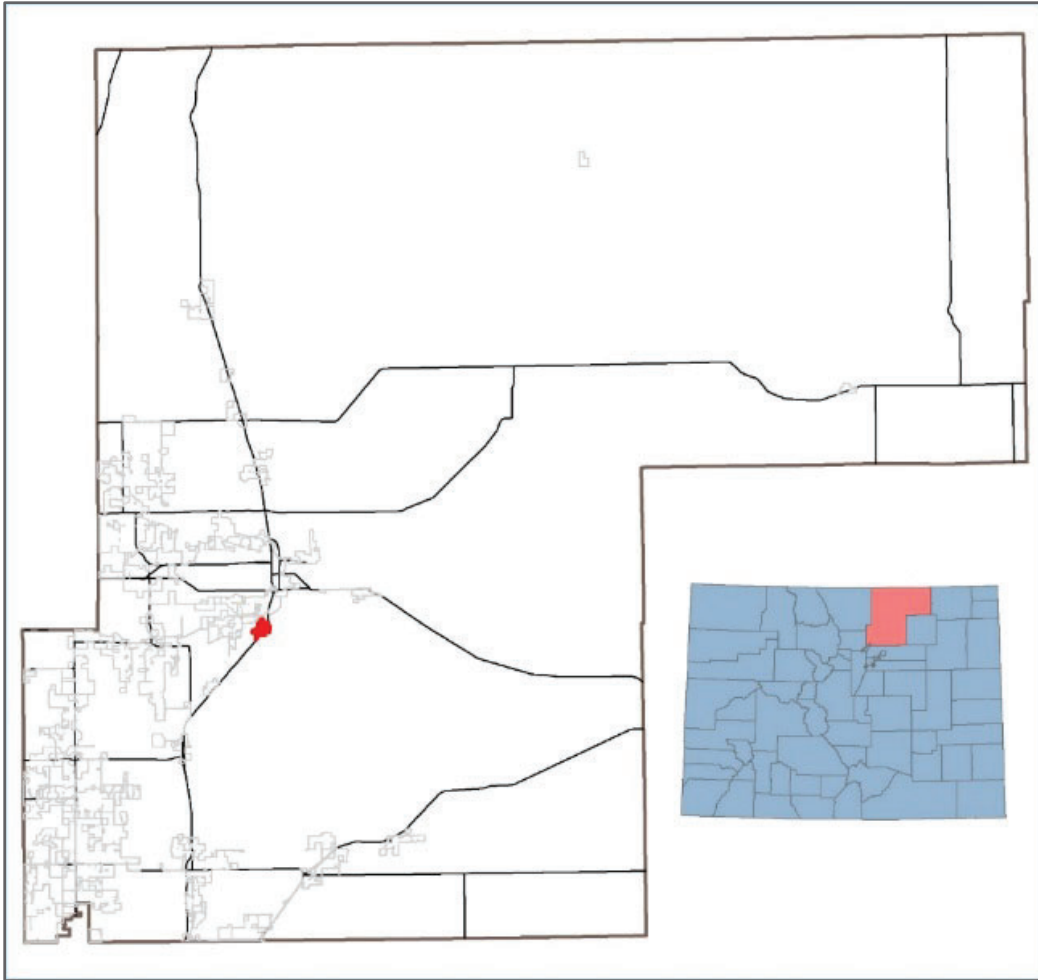
7.13 Town of LaSalle

The LaSalle 2018 Comprehensive Plan identified guiding principles to inform decisions for the present and future of the community. These are based on the community's core values and are used to guide decisions, prioritize allocation of resources and preserve the unique qualities that define LaSalle. These Guiding Principles are:

- Preserve LaSalle's Small-Town Character.
- Ensure growth pays its own way and contributes to the community as a whole.
- Continue to maintain and upgrade infrastructure and community facilities.
- Foster economic vitality and resilience by supporting existing local businesses and attracting new businesses.
- Approach decisions in the spirit of cooperation and work together to find solutions that are beneficial to the community.
- Form and nurture partnerships with other communities and agencies to help strengthen LaSalle and enhance community services.
- Respect and protect the environment.
- Preserve and enhance opportunities and services to support and attract families.
- Be resilient economically and environmentally.
- Continue to acknowledge and support the local agricultural community and responsible development of mineral resources within the LaSalle Planning Area.

7.13.1 Community Profile

LaSalle is located approximately 7 miles south of Greeley. The Town is bisected by U.S Highway 85 and houses a switchyard for Union Pacific Railway. The Town has a total area of 0.7 square miles and is an agricultural community, although recent growth has started to diversify the economy.



The table below summarizes development information of the Town of LaSalle. Current information for specific characteristics of the population is only available from the US Census Bureau for municipalities with populations over 5,000 people.

Table 162. Town of LaSalle Demographics

LaSalle	Colorado	
2,337	5,758,736	Population, 2019
18.9%	14.5%	Population, % change April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019
2.8	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

7.13.2 Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

Table 163 summarizes the results of the RF ranking exercise performed by the Town of LaSalle. 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 163. Risk Factor Results for LaSalle

Hazard	Probability	Impact	Spatial Extent	Warning Time	Duration	RF Ranking
Agricultural Hazards	2	2	2	1	2	1.9
Cyber Hazards	2	1	4	4	2	2.3
Drought	4	3	4	1	4	3.4
Earthquake	1	1	1	1	1	1.0
Extreme Temps.	2	2	3	1	2	2.1
Flood	3	3	3	4	4	3.2
Hazmat Release	3	3	4	4	2	3.2
Land Subsidence	1	1	1	1	1	1.0
Prairie Fire	2	1	1	4	1	1.6
Public Health Hazards	4	4	4	2	4	3.8
Severe Storms	4	3	4	2	3	3.4
Tornado & Wind	3	3	3	4	1	2.9

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 LaSalle 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 164. Hazard Risk Conclusions for LaSalle

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

Since the 2016 Plan, the Town has decreased the assessed risk from earthquake to Low Risk (formerly Moderate) and from extreme temperatures to Moderate Risk (formerly High). LaSalle increased its risk assessment for flood to be High Risk (formerly Moderate). Besides the newly added hazards of agricultural hazards and cyber hazards, all other risk rankings remain the same.

The following sections highlight the Town of LaSalle'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.

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

7.13.2.2 Flood (including Dam & Levee Failure)

Flood is a very localized hazard and vulnerability is unique for each municipality. There are no previous events to document specific to LaSalle.

The Town of LaSalle's overall vulnerability to flood is considerably less than that of the rest of the County. LaSalle has no address points located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), compared to the 1.6% of Countywide addresses that are located in the SFHA.

However, flood events can occur as a result of dam or levee failure. In these cases, flood waters may not follow the typical floodplains mapped as the SFHA.

Overall vulnerability to flooding in dam inundation areas is increased considerably for the Town of LaSalle, where 81.4% of address points (751) are located within these dam inundation areas. This is a significantly larger percentage of structures at risk, as compared to 1.0% of Countywide addresses located in these areas.

Additionally, the Town is the first jurisdiction downstream from eight dams. One has a hazard classification of Significant and currently has an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). None are classified as High. Additional information pertaining to dams can be referenced at the State's Dam Safety website: <https://dwr.state.co.us/Tools/DamSafety/Dams>.

The Town's overall vulnerability to flooding in areas protected by known levees is substantially different from the rest of the County. LaSalle has no address points located within levee protected areas. This is compared to 1.6% of Countywide addresses located in these areas.

It is important to note that this analysis is only as good as best available data allows. Current floodplains, dam inundation areas, and areas protected by levees may not currently map all hazard areas. Additionally, mapped hazard areas may be dated and in need of updated mapping and analysis.

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

7.13.2.3 Hazmat Release

Vulnerability to hazmat release is increased for the Town of LaSalle, mainly due to the location of a CDOT hazardous materials route through the community. Additionally, railroads span across LaSalle 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 six events that have occurred within the Town of LaSalle between 1991 and 2019. One of these was the derailment and rollover of a train car. The rest were due to overfilling and improper preparation for transport. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.13.2.4 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 the Town of LaSalle. 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.

7.13.2.5 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. LaSalle'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 LaSalle has had four severe storm events. All of these events resulted in reports of hail, which ranged in size from .75 inch to 1 inch. 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 LaSalle, 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.

7.13.2.6 Tornado & Straight-Line Wind

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

Between 2015 and 2020, there were no reports of occurrences specific to LaSalle. Future occurrences are expected to mirror that of the County. Refer to Chapter 5 – Risk Assessment of this Plan for additional details.

7.13.3 Capabilities Assessment

The capability assessment examines the ability of the Town of LaSalle 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 most of these capabilities shown in Table 165. It is important for all municipalities to regularly review each of these tools, to identify opportunities for further risk reduction efforts.

Table 165. Planning & Regulatory Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Comprehensive, Master, or General Plan	Yes	
Capital Improvement Program or Plan (CIP)	Yes	Reviewed annually

WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Floodplain Management Plan		County Plan
Stormwater Program / Plan	Yes	MS4-
Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)	No	
Erosion / Sediment Control Program	Yes	
Economic Development Plan	Yes	
Other:		
Building Codes (Year)	Yes	2003 IBC
Site Plan Review Requirements	Yes	
Other:	No	
Zoning Ordinance (Land Use)	Yes	
Subdivision Ordinance	Yes	
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Participant	Yes	
Flood Insurance Study / Flood Insurance Rate Map / DFIRM	Yes	
Floodplain Ordinance	Yes	
Elevation Certificates for Floodplain Development	Yes	FEMA
Community Rating System (CRS) Participant	No	
Open Space / Conservation Program	Yes	
Growth Management Ordinance	No	
Stormwater Ordinance	Yes	
Other Hazard Ordinance (steep slope, wildfire, snow loads, etc.)	Yes	Building Code
Other:	No	

Available resources including staff, municipal groups, and technology are all vital for a community to be able to implement hazard mitigation. LaSalle is fortunate to have most all of these capabilities identified in Table 166.

Table 166. Administrative & Technical Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Planning Commission	Yes	
Mitigation Planning Committee	Yes	Staff
Maintenance Programs (tree trimming, clearing drainage, etc.)	Yes	
Emergency Manager	Yes	Carl Harvey
Building Official	Yes	Procode
Floodplain Administrator	Yes	Carl Harvey
Community Planner	Yes	
Transportation Planner	Yes	Staff

WELD COUNTY 2021 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Civil Engineer	Yes	Contracted
GIS Capability	Yes	County
Resiliency Planner	No	
Other:	No	
Warning Systems / Services (flood)	Yes	CodeRed, IPAWS
Warning Systems / Services (other / multi hazard)	Yes	CodeRed, IPAWS
Grant Writing / Management	Yes	
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 167 and show that LaSalle utilizes a broad range of financial tools that can support mitigation activities.

Table 167. Financial Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Levy for Specific Purposes with Voter Approval	No	Clerk
Utilities Fees	Yes	Water, Sewer, Trash, Stormwater
System Development / Impact Development Fee	Yes	
General Obligation Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Special Tax Bonds to Incur Debt	No	
Open Space / Conservation Fund	No	
Stormwater Utility Fees	Yes	
Capital Improvement Project Funding	Yes	Annual Budgeted
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Yes	County
Withheld spending in hazard-prone areas	No	
Other:	Yes	DOLA

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 168 shows that LaSalle could benefit by expanding upon these capabilities.

Table 168. Education & Outreach Capabilities

Mitigation Capability	Utilized?	Comments
Public Hazard Education / Outreach Program	No	Occasional events, no formal program
Local Citizen Groups That Communicate Hazard Risks	No	

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

7.13.4 Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning

The Town currently cooperates with Weld County and the LaSalle Fire Protection District to plan for and respond to emergencies. Interagency cooperation is a critical element of all emergency response activities. LaSalle will continue to identify and plan for hazards that may pose a risk. The Town will also focus on public education relating to hazards and hazard mitigation, as citizens are interested in enhanced communication and emergency response education and trainings. The Town will also pursue resilience in the spirit of cooperation with community partners including the Weld County RE-I School District, LaSalle Fire Protection District, Weld County, surrounding communities and other community service providers.

Plans to be reviewed for integration with the HMP include: capital improvement plan, comprehensive plan, stormwater management plan, land use code, maintenance plan, watershed plan, open space plan, subdivision and land development ordinances, and zoning ordinances.

7.13.5 Mitigation Actions

The new mitigation action identified by the Town during the Plan update is included in Table 169. Two actions from the 2016 Plan have been carried over into the Town's updated mitigation strategy.

Table 169. 2021 Mitigation Actions

ID	Organization	Action
2021-70	1-LaSalle	Community Preparedness Education
2021-71	2-LaSalle	Develop Upkeep Schedule for Emergency Power Systems
2021-104	3-LaSalle	Community Impact Study -Vulnerable Populations-Shelter Capabilities Planning