



EAGLE COUNTY
Regional Airport



EAGLE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT MASTER PLAN

Appendix F





F EAGLE COUNTY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Summary of Eagle County Community Resilience Plan

Focus Area	Priority	Resilience Strategy	How it Helps	Actions
Health and Wellness	High	Build community equity, trust, and civic engagement.	Getting residents involved in all aspects of life in the County will not only help improve community resilience, it will enhance our commitment to health, wellness, and prosperity for the entire community.	Incentivize community involvement and civic engagement on resilience. Plan, fund, and implement community events that improve social infrastructure and enhance community cohesion. <u>Invest in community cohesion to create more resilient communities before disaster occurs.</u>
Health and Wellness	High	Ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all community residents, visitors, and workers during and after a disaster.	Being prepared for any disaster that comes our way is key to community resilience and ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of all of our community members.	Ensure community and individual assets are insured against catastrophic wildfire. Coordinate post-fire emergency protection measures (with regards to landslides, flooding, and erosion) with relevant agencies. <u>Host neighborhood events specific to emergency response, education, and preparedness.</u>
Health and Wellness	High	Support frontline communities in preparing for and recovering from extreme weather events.	Frontline community members are individuals that are frequently impacted first and worst by climate change and extreme weather events. The resilience of Eagle County is dependent on our ability to ensure that all community members are prepared for and able to recover from extreme weather events.	Coordinate health related emergency management and evacuation services with frontline community organizations, community members, and resources. Develop formalized agreements (MOU's) with hospitals and clinics to be better prepared for catastrophic wildfire. Ensure these MOU's address protocols, preparedness, and bed availability. Build and strengthen partnerships with frontline community organizations and community members.
Health and Wellness	Medium	Enhance community wellness by investing in social infrastructure and increasing community connectivity in neighborhoods.	A connected community is a resilient community. Investing in projects and programs that help neighbors know each other will both enhance their involvement in County planning and make them better able to support each other during and immediately following wildfires and other extreme weather events.	Support recreational opportunities that are accessible to all, including those activities that may be lost due to climate change. Create community hubs for people of all ages, races, and incomes to play, learn, and connect. Identify opportunities to increase social connectivity in areas in the County that have no internet or cell service.
Health and Wellness	Low	Increase public awareness of air quality impacts, monitoring, and response.	Knowing what to do during periods of lower air quality (primarily from wildfires) will reduce the impacts of those events (particularly on frontline community members). Investing in monitoring air quality in the region will help build awareness of the issues and provide support for actions that limit the effects of poor air quality.	Create and deploy an education campaign to help people understand what to do when wildfires reduce local air quality (use neighborhoods as units of change). Develop materials that accurately portray Eagle County's air quality. <u>Develop an air quality monitoring and public reporting system.</u>
Economy	High	Expand community engagement and education focused on behavior changes that enhance resilience and sustainability.	Truly building resilience will require working together. Expanding engagement and developing educational materials will increase the understanding of what it means to be resilient and promote actions residents and visitors can take to contribute to the sustainability and resilience of the county.	Develop and cultivate partnerships between local towns, resort businesses, and others to support the expansion of economic opportunities. Educate residents and tourists on ways to reduce environmental impacts of consumer decisions. Convene working groups of individuals and organizations related to each climate impact to advance the <u>work of various strategies.</u>
Economy	High	Support the financial stability of frontline families and communities.	Frontline families and communities are those who experience the first and often worst effects of extreme weather events. They have less resources to allow them to cope with a disaster or to invest in future preparedness. Enhancing financial stability will also relieve physical and mental health stresses on those families and help them respond and bounce back better after natural disasters.	Develop a County-level emergency fund that displaced populations can utilize in case of emergencies. Ensure that displaced renters, not just homeowners, are protected and supported in a post-fire economy. Expand access to affordable and long-term housing and childcare for first responders and response and recovery partners.
Economy	High	Support affordable housing and living wages for all residents.	A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Investing in and building the vibrant and diverse county that we all want will require investing in the people that call the county home. Affordable housing and living wages enhance resilience by reducing financial stresses on families, allowing them to invest more in their homes, participate in our communities, and put down roots in the county. An investment in the people who make Eagle County's economy work will promote and encourage the development of the stable and dedicated workforce required for a thriving economy.	Support affordable housing for resort/seasonal employees. Improve affordable housing opportunities and target wage disparity that reflects the cost of living in the valley so frontline communities are better equipped financially if disaster occurs. Identify, develop, and implement public/private partnerships for home retrofits and improvements aimed at <u>energy efficiency and wildfire preparedness.</u>

Economy	High	Support the growth of a diverse economy.	Diversity is a hallmark of resilience. A diverse economy is not overly reliant on a single sector (or a single season) to generate income and employment for the residents of the county. A diverse economy is better able to withstand economic downturns or shifting public preferences. A diverse economy provides meaningful employment to all different types of people with a variety of professional interests and creates a more vibrant social fabric for the communities in the county.	Promote a community-wide, integrated marketing strategy that highlights what makes Eagle County great, special, and worth visiting. Diversify work opportunities away from recreation tourism by attracting year-round employers to Eagle County. Create a ‘resilient Eagle County brand’ using storytelling to represent the benefits investing in building resilience in Eagle County to residents and guests.
Infrastructure	High	Create redundant and resilient utility infrastructure with a focus on energy, water, and telecommunications.	Energy, water, and communications are the systems that tie our communities together. Resilient systems are diverse, have back-ups and redundancy, and are flexible and able to dynamically respond to extreme weather events, changing conditions, natural disasters, and other stressors. They provide the backbone support for the health, safety, and wellbeing of all County residents.	Adopt policies that require underground utilities infrastructure to increase safety, improve reliability, and increase system resilience. Implement rural broadband to provide internet access to rural areas for wildfire evacuation, communication, and education/outreach. Develop source water protection plans for water utilities and implement recommendations to protect source water from the impacts of wildfire and drought.
Infrastructure	High	Foster and enhance coordination between organizations for pre- and post-disaster response.	It takes hard work, good communication, and strong partnerships to effectively respond to disasters. With the risk of more frequent, more intense, and less predictable wildfires on the horizon (as well as other risk), we need to be better prepared to deal with these events, both during the event and during the long period of recovery. Investing in these partnerships now will enhance our ability as a County to prepare for and face the challenges of the future.	Strengthen County relationship with non-governmental organizations, businesses, and faith-based organizations that can support the County during disaster response and recovery. Assess the connection between water suppliers and frontline communities. Develop a more robust community alert system.
Infrastructure	Medium	Ensure safe, effective, and equitable multi-modal evacuation strategies for the County.	Some areas of the County are in remote areas with only one way in or out. Residents of these areas are particularly vulnerable during wildfires, floods, or other disaster events and can become isolated. Thinking holistically about the multi-modal transportation system, investing in planning for evacuations, and executing those plans (if necessary) can avert a crisis before it starts.	Model and streamline potential evacuation routes, bottlenecks, and evacuation alternatives (ie. open gates in private communities). Ensure evacuation strategies are updated across all plans prior to an emergency event. Educate all residents on evacuation procedures in culturally appropriate ways.
Infrastructure	Medium	Enhance vegetation management, defensible space, and building hardening efforts across the County.	The County has existing robust programs dedicated to vegetation management, defensible space, and home/building hardening efforts, and it is important to continue to cultivate those efforts. Wildfire poses a significant risk to many County residents; therefore, prioritizing this ongoing work is essential to enhancing resilience in the community.	Increase dedicated staffing for vegetation management programs. Provide incentives to homeowners that are following fire safe practices. Increase funding for County-wide forest and vegetation management to implement long-term, on-going forest management at the landscape scale.
Infrastructure	Medium	Enforce Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) policies, zoning laws, and regulations.	Policies and regulations are only as good as their ability to be enforced. Many of the County’s residents live in the Wildland Urban Interface, and continuing to ensure that all residents are complying with County policies and regulations are essential to minimizing our risk to catastrophic wildfire.	Increase the number of annual inspections for defensible space. Improve land-use planning and zoning laws to avoid future development in high-risk WUI areas. Create and enforce a resolution for defensible space compliance with absentee property owners.
Infrastructure	Low	Facilitate flexible deployment of temporary housing post disaster.	Depending on the severity of an extreme weather event, it can take months, and sometimes years, for families to recover from these events. A key piece of this recovery is housing, especially in Eagle County where affordable housing is limited. Post-disaster housing can help provide stability for families and communities as they work to rebuild their lives and remain part of the community.	Adopt flexible zoning codes to be implemented during emergencies (i.e. allow mobile homes, allow high occupancy in places). Identify temporary housing deployment zones to be utilized during emergencies.
Natural Resources	High	Create wildfire resilient landscapes.	The wildfires of the past few years highlight current and future risk to our communities, particularly areas that are in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). This risk will continue to increase due to climate change, but resilient landscapes can limit the extent of the fires, allow plant and animal species to rebound more rapidly, and lower the occurrence of catastrophic fires.	Use prescribed fire (when appropriate) to manage noxious weeds and to ensure fuel buildup does not occur. Expand wildfire regulations, authority, and enforcement. Increase social and political acceptance through education and success stories to increase acceptance that wildfire is a natural and integral part of the landscape.
Natural Resources	High	Create resilient wildlife populations by maintaining healthy ecosystems and habitat connectivity.	Healthy wildlife depends on healthy ecosystems. Lowering non-climate related stressors, such as pollution, will allow species to better respond to and survive periods of extreme weather (such as droughts). Limiting habitat fragmentation and increasing habitat connectivity will allow animals to move to new areas as conditions continue to change.	Cultivate partnerships with organizations focused on enhancing wildlife and ecosystem health. Plan, fund, and implement wildlife habitat restoration projects, especially in riparian zones. Protect wildlife travel corridors through smart growth and development.

Natural Resources	High	Adopt and enforce requirements that improve water quality and quantity.	Eagle County is a complex social and environmental system where we rely on nature for a variety of services, including clean drinking water. Growing populations and development can put additional demands on water sources and increase pollution. Thus, enhancing our investments in these areas will ensure that all residents have access to clean water for decades to come.	Reestablish the Urban Runoff Group with expanded scope for Eagle River watershed. Support infrastructure planning to mitigate runoff after a wildfire (i.e., pollutants/sediment filtered through retention ponds before reaching waterways). Adopt county codes focused on setbacks from waterways and floodplains to protect riparian habitat.
Natural Resources	High	Encourage adoption of innovative indoor and outdoor water efficiency programs and strategies.	Decreasing water use (particularly outdoors during the summer) will create a buffer that we can use in times of drought and to support continued population growth. Being more efficient also saves money and frees up resources at both the neighborhood and regional level that can be used in other ways to build resilience.	Adopt water efficiency codes and ordinances that optimize outdoor water use. Support water planning efforts focused on potential community growth levels so as not to exhaust the Eagle River's water supply solely for human consumption. Initiate a turf rebate program to encourage xeriscaping, low water use, and native vegetation.
Natural Resources	Medium	Create a multi-jurisdictional program to develop and implement best management practices for post-fire recovery.	Wildfires are a natural part of life in our forests. Being ready for wildfire means not just responding appropriately during the fire, but taking actions post-fire that help the ecosystems and our communities recover quickly and enhance preparedness for future fires.	Integrate source water protection planning efforts across Eagle County. Enact pre-fire risk studies and post-fire rehabilitation plans. Identify who will coordinate long-term multi-jurisdictional post-fire recovery on both public and private property including fundraising/volunteer coordination.
Natural Resources	Medium	Implement educational programs to encourage responsible use of resources and protect ecosystem health.	Residents and visitors to Eagle County inevitably impact natural resources that we rely on to support our economy and our ways of life. Increasing our understanding of how individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities can affect resource abundance or the health of our ecosystems will impact how we use and care for those resources.	Create an education program focused on recreational fishing temperature standards (local anglers and guides would halt fishing when river temperatures are too high). Integrate "ecoliteracy" into school curriculums, community educational programs, and materials. Provide educational resources on ways home and property owners can mitigate invasive species.