



E. VISION STATEMENTS & STRATEGIES



Vision Statements & Strategies

Included in this section is both a high level overview and detailed breakdown of the OPPI Vision Statements, Strategies, and Action Items. These were utilized in determining the suggested projects.



OPPI VISION, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS

OUTDOOR PIKES PEAK INITIATIVE VISION:

The Pikes Peak region's people and economy thrive through our united efforts to ensure the resiliency of the region's public lands, water, wildlife, working farms and ranches, as well as sustainable world class outdoor recreation opportunities for all.

VISION STATEMENT	STRATEGY & ACTION ITEM	EXAMPLE	OVERLAP	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS/ NOTES
PARTNERSHIP VISION/VALUE STATEMENT: Partnerships among land managers, volunteers, municipalities, nonprofits, businesses and the community are key to maintaining and sustaining the Pikes Peak region's natural resources and recreation assets.	STRATEGY: Identify existing and form new partnerships among land managers to meet priorities			Land Managers (Summit)	Not Started
	(What) Determine the priorities and low hanging fruit for which partnerships should exist	Stewardship, Recreation Management, Workforce Development, Wildfire Mitigation...			Not Started
	- Inventory what partnerships exist, could be expanded, or need developed to support these priorities.	Existing-Wildfire Mitigation Partnerships			Not Started
	(Who) Determine appropriate partners for new collaboration, respecting partner requirements. This could include land managers, municipalities, nonprofits, and other stakeholders.	· Workforce Development: Chambers & EDC's, Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Higher Education... · Recreation Management: CPW, CSU, USFS, BLM, Cities, PPAM...			Not Started
	(How) Determine appropriate agreement structure (MOU, MOA, CMA, etc.) and partner responsibilities	· Workforce Development: ? · Recreation Management-Operations Agreement and MOU (AHRA)	Management		Not Started
	STRATEGY: Engage the broader communities to support existing and new partnerships				Not Started
	Identify appropriate volunteer opportunities and tasks to support land managers and partnerships.				In Progress
	Communicate best practices for volunteer engagement that support partner organizations.				In Progress
	Engage public and private schools and workforce development entities to establish stewardship, STEM programs and workforce development within the state and region	Start at state level	Recreation		Not Started
	COMMUNICATION VISION/VALUE STATEMENT: Intentional communication is essential to fostering effective inter-agency coordination, industry	STRATEGY: Create an effective communication plan/messaging strategy from land managers to engage industry stakeholders and inform the public			
Create and disseminate messages that communicate land manager notices, public engagement opportunities, actions taken/planned/proposed, for improved stakeholder and public awareness, engagement, understanding, and compliance.		- EX: Mechanical Removal of Fuels in X location Aud: Recreational users, homeowners, businesses Message: This area has been identified as at risk for wildfire. This treatment determined the best tool for mitigation due to these factors.... Closures during X-X. Public should anticipate X.		PPORA	Not Started
Strategize for multiple communication platforms - Create/utilize existing information hubs and resources to share current and future recreation and natural resource updates for our region. - Develop/share messaging through agency and partner news releases, video assets, social media, ambassador programs, billboards, signage, etc.		- www.pikespeakoutdoors.org - stakeholder routine newsletters	Partnerships	PPORA and Land Managers	Not Started
Inventory, connect, and enhance existing ranger and/or ambassador programs within the Pikes Peak region for face-to-face outdoor recreation education		- Trails and Open Space Coalition - City of Colorado Springs Parks Recreation and Cultural Services	Management		Not Started
STRATEGY: Create regular gatherings of land managers for effective communication and planning					Not Started (Is happening by project only)
Coordinate a regional summit where land managers discuss current challenges, initiatives, opportunities for collaboration, and messaging needs. - Determine frequency, location, facilitator, structure Fit into an existing event or create something new		Pikes Peak Land Manager Quarterly Summit	Partnership	PPORA	Not Started (PPOILS 2025)
STRATEGY: Create unified messaging around central themes supporting the region's outdoors and expand outdoor education programs				PPORA+	Not Started

stakeholder support and involvement, and community leader and public understanding of local natural resource and recreation values and initiatives.	Determine the priorities and low hanging fruit for unified messaging that takes into account tourists, residents, youth, cultures, user groups, and general public. Messaging to include: - Leave No Trace Stewardship ethic - Value of the outdoors for health and wellness - Preservation of our natural and recreational assets for future generations (Conservation ethic) - Outdoors for All -inclusivity				Not Started
	Educate decision makers on the value of outdoor education and workforce development -state, county, local leaders in the healthcare, government, and education sectors.				Not Started
	Inventory existing outdoor education programming: - Identify areas for collaboration among educators/providers (resource sharing) - Identify gaps/opportunities in programs and curriculum - Advocate for greater access to and expansion of outdoor education				Not Started
	STRATEGY: Create regular communication and provide updates to local, state, and federal leadership			PPORA+	In Progress (Needs Intentionality)
	Provide updates to local leaders on a regular basis	- City Council - County Commissioners - Chambers - Destination Management Org. (DMO)/Visitor Center - State of the Outdoors			In Progress
	Provide updates to state leaders on a regular basis	- State congressional representatives - Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office (OREC) - Colorado Tourism Office			In Progress
Provide updates to federal leaders on an as needed basis	- Colorado Senators - Colorado Representatives			In Progress	
CONNECTIVITY VISION/VALUE STATEMENT: Connecting communities and recreation opportunities within the Pikes Peak region creates a more sustainable, equitable, and enjoyable future.	STRATEGY: Develop a regional trail master plan focused on connectivity as well as user experience: trail to trail, trail to community, trail from community to outdoor space/opportunity, etc.				Not Started
	Create inter-county connectors across the Pikes Peak region	Ex: Front Range Trail, Gold Belt Byway, Ring the Peak	Recreation		Not Started
	Identify and evaluate connections that cross jurisdictions where allowed uses change from one jurisdiction to the next to consider making consistent policies throughout connections for easier understanding and compliance of recreation users.	Ex: Motorized trails that end abruptly with the next connection a distance away, e-bike policy shift from trail to connection, dogs allowed in one then not in the next jurisdiction, are all examples of policies that could negatively impact sustainability of the resource, understanding and compliance of users, and enjoyability of the user experience.	Recreation		Not Started
	STRATEGY: Connect urban communities to nature and outdoor recreation opportunities				Not Started
	Explore transportation systems and networks that connect urban and *disproportionately impacted communities to recreation sites/opportunities, giving consideration to carrying capacity.	Shuttle system to trailheads, to Pikes Peak Summit, to reservoirs, etc.			Not Started - Definition of DIC: Colo. Rev. Stat. Section 24-4-109 - State engagement of disproportionately impacted communities. See: https://casetext.com/statute/colorado-revised-statutes/title-24-government-state/administration/article-4-rule-making-and-licensing-procedures-by-state-agencies/part-1-general/section-24-4-109-state-engagement-of-disproportionately-impacted-communities-definitions
	Study the potential extension and connection of trails from neighborhoods to outdoor spaces such as parks and greenways - Utilize the Trust for Public Land "Distance to Opportunity and Enviro Screen" report - Prioritize connections that provide access to nature and recreation for those who would benefit the most from the health and wellness benefits they provide, such as communities with significantly lower life expectancy	Legacy Loop Trail, Santa Fe, Midland Trail, Sand Creek Trail	Recreation	Urban Land Managers	Not Started
	Strategically allocate resources and planning to the "front range/front door" areas closest to population centers for easier connectivity and access for the greatest number of people	Ex: Along the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI); more developed opportunities nearest urban centers with less development further away; keeping in mind the different planning needs based on population proximity to natural spaces.			Not Started

	STRATEGY: Create community connectors for rural economic vitality				Not Started
	Complete strategic previously-identified community connection priorities such as Cripple Creek to Victor Community Connector (RTP Master Plan), Woodland Park to Ring the Peak (Woodland Park Parks Master Plan), Penrose to Cañon City) to increase visitation and resulting spending in rural communities				Not Started
	STRATEGY: Complete Ring the Peak Trail (RTP)			OPPI Implementation Team	In Progress
	Convene RTP stakeholders regularly to continue planning and advance the RTP Master Plan				In Progress
	Solve land managers' and elected officials' concern of effective management of the trail	CPW expanded management responsibilities could include trail management as a State Trail or part of larger agreement	Management		In Progress
	Engage key private land owners in discussions of trail completion: concerns, potential trail easements, potential property acquisitions, etc.				In Progress
	Assess current trail alignment and complete remaining segments, referencing RTP Master Plan				In Progress
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION VISION/VALUE STATEMENT: Exceptional conservation, connectivity, and adaptive management of the Pikes Peak region's plant and wildlife species, and the habitats on which they depend, ensures resilience and sustainability in the face of stressors such as changing climate, increased and changing recreational use, and urban development.	STRATEGY: Sustain key wildlife corridors to reduce habitat fragmentation, encourage species health, and provide climate resiliency		Connectivity		In Progress. A Pikes Peak Region Conservation Summary is being developed.
	Collaboratively identify and determine priorities of key wildlife corridors in the Pikes Peak region			Colorado Parks and Wildlife	In Progress
	Communicate identified areas broadly with decision makers who could impact their sustainability	Local governments, proximate private land owners, trail organizations, user groups, advocacy groups, etc.	Communication/Partnerships	Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Partners	In Progress
	STRATEGY: Conserve priority public and private lands to ensure they continue to provide their many benefits long into the future				Not Started/In Progress
	Identify the most biodiverse, climate-resilient, agriculturally rich, culturally significant, and prominent viewsheds* in the Pikes Peak region for conservation priority.	<i>* These characteristics are not all-inclusive - there are undoubtedly additional key criteria for consideration</i>			In Progress. A Pikes Peak Region Conservation Summary is being developed.
	Achieve the Sentinel Landscape designation for the Pikes Peak region as essential to military readiness and resilience in support of the five local military installations. <i>(Added post-listening sessions)</i>				In Progress/Ongoing
	Develop a regional strategic and coordinated approach for land managers, municipalities, and land trusts to conserve prioritized land, piece by piece, some by acquisitions and others by conservation easements.	Ex: Local municipalities working closely together and with The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, Palmer Land Conservancy, and private entities to strategically acquire or place conservation easements on prioritized properties; REPI -Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program - creating conserved buffers of land adjacent to military property.			Not Started
	STRATEGY: Prioritize conservation of key wildlife corridors and areas of high conservation value when planning and approving development.				Not Started
	Work with stakeholders, including local, state, and federal government and private producers (growers and ranchers), to avoid or limit development in prioritized areas - Pursue agreements and policy changes with government entities where appropriate, such as land use and planning departments				Not Started
	STRATEGY: Preserve and restore riparian areas within the Pikes Peak region to sustain the unique biodiversity that riparian corridors support				Not Started https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/nrca_glca_2021_riparian.htm#:~:text=Riparian%20zones%2C%20or%20areas%2C%20are,by%20the%20presence%20of%20water.
Inventory and rank riparian areas alongside the region's waterways that could benefit from preservation or restoration				Not Started	
Proactively plan for the conservation of riparian areas and the restoration of natural systems along our waterways	Ex: COS Creek Plan, Monument Creek Stabilization Project, Fountain Creek Watershed & Flood Plain Control District project(s)			In Progress/Ongoing	

	STRATEGY: Actively work to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve forest health across the Pikes Peak region			In Progress/Ongoing
	Proactively and strategically reduce fuels in the region identified in high-risk areas, including the Wildfire Crisis Strategy (WCS), which also opens up the canopy to improve health on the forest floor and improves wildlife habitat.	Ex: The USFS Pikes Peak Ranger District is actively engaged in the 10-year WCS, reducing fuels alongside neighboring districts within the forest; local government fire departments are working with Home Owner Organizations and other partners to reduce fuels on private land	Central Colorado Forest Collaborative	In Progress/Ongoing
	Build partnerships within and outside of the region to engage the public and other stakeholders in better understanding, support, and communication of necessary mitigation efforts and expected short-term impacts and long-term results.	The Pikes National Forest WCS Partner Roundtable (CO-CO), impacted user groups,	Partnerships	Central Colorado Forest Collaborative
	STRATEGY: Work to ensure that the Pikes Peak region's water quality and supply is resilient and sustainable to benefit communities, agriculture, wildlife, and recreation			In Progress/Ongoing
	Mitigate the impacts on water supply and native species plants from drought, landscape irrigation, etc. through smart, future-facing policies in local communities. Reduce non-functional turf grass and replace it with drought and climate-resilient landscaping while maintaining vital urban landscapes and tree canopy.	Ex: Adapting water re-use technology; allowing rain water to be used by residents on landscapes; encouraging zeroscaping/minimizing turf requirements in communities; working with developers and local governments to incentivize the use of native drought-tolerant plants, grasses and trees in new development; look to the Colorado Water Plan for additional steps that can be taken regionally and locally.	Local Government	In Progress/Ongoing
	Work with the agricultural community within the region to develop water conservation measures that do not negatively impact the reliability of their water supply.	Proposed state legislation is working on this at a state level but local and regional measures may be more effective.	Partnerships	Palmer Land Conservancy
	Look to Colorado Water Plan (CWP) for actions that can be taken regionally and locally to conserve the region's water supply and align projects with CWP criteria for funding and implementation.	Pikes Peak Waterways' application for local capacity to assist in COS Creek Plan.		Colorado Springs Utilities, Fountain Creek Watershed District...
	STRATEGY: Identify areas currently being used for recreation to provide a baseline for planning recreation asset improvement, expansion, and development			Not Started
	Review mapping data for geographic location of existing legal recreation use, assets and infrastructure. - Review of existing "system" infrastructure such as trails, trailheads, campgrounds, parking lots: COTREX - Review of visitor use data: USFS and BLM Visitor info, state park and state wildlife area data, local government entity visitor data			In Progress - Area of Opportunity support tool developed and evaluated throughout OPPI process
	In addition to the above, review available data and create heat map demonstrating where use is taking place including but not exclusive of system infrastructure (For planning purposes- not made publically available) - Use all available data such as Strava (user-generated) and cell phone data - show trends over the last several years, where possible - Use of this data is informative not prescriptive - to identify where use is taking place, not determining appropriateness of that use	NOCO PLACES 2050 Cell Phone Data Reporting		Not Started
	STRATEGY: Prioritize access for underserved peoples and communities in planning recreation asset and opportunity improvement, expansion, and development		Connectivity	Not Started
	Incorporate available data and mapping into planning: The Nature Conservancy's Enviro Screen, The Trust for Public Land's Distance to Opportunity and 10 Minute to Park reports, Elevate the Peak Plan feedback from underserved community representatives			Not Started
	Engage local underserved community advocacy groups into planning processes	The Independence Center, Pikes Peak Generation Wild, Backpackers, RISE Coalition, Accessible Adventures, etc.		In Progress/Ongoing
	When designing new recreation assets and infrastructure, where appropriate, build intentionally with accessibility for those with disabilities - It is much easier and less costly to build parks, trails, etc. with accessibility from the beginning than retrofitting later - When building accessibly, EVERYONE can use the asset - able-bodied, seniors, families, those with strollers, as well as those with disabilities - The Pikes Peak region has a much higher rate of both residents and visitors with disabilities than the U.S. average	El Paso County Nature Centers, Boulder County Accessible Trail Guide, etc.		In Progress/Ongoing

RECREATION VISION/VALUE STATEMENT:
A broad spectrum of exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities that are accessible, inclusive, enjoyable, and responsible provides important health, wellness, and economic benefits to local communities and visitors and instills a sense of appreciation and stewardship for the Pikes Peak region's natural resources.

Provide easier access and reduce barriers to entities who provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the underserved	Utilize Nominal Use Exclusion (USFS), prioritize permits, consider reducing fees and other barriers for such groups (Girl Scouts, Youth Camps, Church Groups, Guides and Outfitters, etc.) Outdoor Equity Grant Program, Colorado Springs Utilities' Community Grant, ...			In Progress/Ongoing
STRATEGY: Increase the safety of recreation users in the Pikes Peak region through information, training, and technology				In Progress/Ongoing
Provide basic but important user information to inform new recreational users how to enjoy the outdoors safely through collaborative messaging, seasonal content, and using a variety of channels	Websites, press releases, point of sale for gear, point of sale for licensing and permits, etc.	Communication & Education		In Progress/Ongoing
For recreation use with high risk, develop training and education centers such as skills courses for mountain biking, motorized, outdoor safety classes, etc.	OHV training area (such as Rampart Range youth Training Area), mountain bike Pump Tracks, etc.			In Progress/Ongoing
Collaboratively promote the region's instructors, classes, workshops, seminars, guided trips to increase user competence and safety when engaging in outdoor recreation - Seasonally work together to promote the local community's (and online) options for resources and training to remain safe while enjoying the season's recreation	Avalanche safety awareness courses, wilderness first aid, basic mountain bike classes, paddle boarding class that incorporates water safety, boating safety courses, hunter safety courses	Communication & Education		In Progress/Ongoing
Use existing and develop new technology to provide greater safety in the Pikes Peak region's outdoors - Research the potential for adding cell service where it is currently lacking to allow for quicker reporting of wildfire, injury, unlawful behavior, etc. - Promote apps that can assist in safety and awareness: wayfinding/maps, backcountry first-aid, recreation skills, hazards, etc.	COTREX, Colorado Mountain Club's RIMS, Onyx, Goes App, Wilderness Medicine Reference App, etc.			In Progress/Ongoing
STRATEGY: Determine suitable areas for recreation asset improvement, expansion, and development				Not Started
Bring together the mapping data identified through the OPPI process to scope the best placement for recreation activity while ensuring protection of highest conservation value areas: - Pikes Peak region Conservation Value Summary (see under Natural Resource Strategies) - Underserved / Disproportionally Impacted Communities (DIC) data - Enviro Screen, TPL Reports	Envision Chaffee County mapping	Natural Resource Conservation Connectivity		In Progress - Area of Opportunity support tool developed and evaluated throughout OPPI process
Reevaluate existing recreational plans in terms of the scope above to determine what previously identified, but unimplemented, recreation opportunities and infrastructure should move forward.		Connectivity		In Progress
Evaluate new recreation opportunities and infrastructure through OPPI building blocks in terms of the scope above - Public feedback (residents and visitors) on new, desired opportunities - Anticipated growth in the region and recreational demand - Stakeholder input				In Progress/Ongoing
Reevaluate existing recreation in terms of the scope above to determine what may no longer be suitable for certain recreation activity and implement appropriate measures, with consideration to: - Legacy Assets/Infrastructure - Connectivity for recreation connections - Strong desirability as a recreation asset			Land Managers	Not Started
STRATEGY: Encourage opportunities for youth to engage in the outdoors for recreation, development of conservation and stewardship ethics, and workforce development				In Progress/Ongoing
Work with education and stakeholder groups to identify strategy for getting youth outdoors through various school, state, and local programs and organizations	Generation Wild, Upa Downa, El Paso County Parks, Fremont Adventure Recreation	Partnerships		In Progress/Ongoing
Work with educators and higher ed, employers, and corps groups to provide outdoor lifestyle and education experiences for better workforce preparedness in the outdoors				In Progress/Ongoing
Encourage outdoor industry workforce development and career advancement for the Pikes Peak region through advocacy with public/private schools, higher ed programs, employers, and community and government decision makers	Ex: Pikes Peak State College just cut their Outdoor Leadership and Recreation Program so we no longer have a higher ed program in our region.	Partnerships		In Progress/Ongoing
STRATEGY: Responsibly expand and amend recreational opportunities with a focus on user experience. <i>(Added post-listening sessions)</i>				Not Started
Incorporate a diverse set of trail options through thoughtful design to reduce conflicts and improve user experience	Ex: Multi-use, single-use, directional, loops, etc.			Not Started
Address significant user/experience gaps where feasible by providing new user opportunities: trails, campsites, etc.	Ex: Motorized single-track trail opportunities are very limited; developed campsites are very limited; downhill/gravity mountain biking opportunities are very limited			Not Started

	Complete community supported projects that have already undergone extensive community and stakeholder processes	Ex: Reimagine Waldo Canyon; Ring the Peak Master Plan			Not Started
MANAGEMENT VISION/VALUE STATEMENT: Exceptional cross-jurisdictional management provides collaborative planning and delivers effective staffing, maintenance, enforcement, and funding for the Pikes Peak region's natural resources and recreational opportunities.	STRATEGY: Establish cross-jurisdiction agreements to effectively manage, maintain, and provide enforcement for the Pikes Peak region's public lands.				In Progress/Ongoing - room for expanded partnerships
	Determine appropriate agreement structures among the Pikes Peak region's multiple land managers to foster collaboration and ensure alignment of mission, goals, and values.	(MOU, MOA, CMA, etc.)			In Progress/Ongoing
	Prioritize and explore ways to address misuse and illegal behavior across the Pikes Peak region's public and private lands	Designated shooting ranges, Rec Ranger programs (Envision Chaffee County), CPW management			In Progress/Ongoing
	STRATEGY: Explore single entity unified recreation management to increase capacities of existing land managers to more effectively address the region's challenges and provide exceptional natural resources conservation and recreation opportunities.				In Progress
	<i>* Land manager policies, environmental regulations, and other requirements must be considered and respected under any management alternative</i>				In Progress
	Determine how a single entity (on-the-ground recreation manager) can meet identified OPPI criteria for managing and delivering exceptional recreation opportunities while ensuring exceptional natural resource conservation through strategies that are effective, efficient, and accountable.	*** See major criteria handout			In Progress
	Explore expansion of Colorado Parks and Wildlife recreation management role across the Pikes Peak region in collaboration with existing land managers. - Identify the benefits and challenges of CPW management - Determine geographic scope of management, taking into consideration current state management and area that could benefit the most	*** See benefits of CPW management handout. Ex: Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA), Cheyenne Mountain State Park, Fishers Peak State Park, State Forest State Park			In Progress
	Explore creation of multijurisdictional agreed upon Operating Plan that would be managed by the single entity - To effectively manage and balance recreation, wildlife, watershed, and forest health needs	Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA)			Not Started
	STRATEGY: Enhance visitor experiences and sustainability in outdoor recreation through better collaboration and thoughtful planning				Not Started
	Evaluate and employ innovative strategies to minimize user conflicts - one way recreation type of use (Clockwise, counterclockwise, downhill only, etc) alternating day uses (M-W bikers, T-Th equestrian, etc.)				In Progress/Ongoing
	When possible, align policies for recreation crossing from one jurisdiction to another and provide appropriate signage	Ex: One trail that starts on one land managers property that connects to a trail n another land managers property, - one allows dogs, one doesn't One allows e-bikes, the other doesn't			Not Started
	STRATEGY: Prioritize planning and maintenance of infrastructure that is sustainable, reduces barriers, and meets users' basic needs.				Not Started
	Prioritize resources (funding and people) to open and maintain existing bathroom facilities, picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds and trash receptacles.				Not Started
Fund maintenance of existing authorized trails and infrastructure - work with stakeholders and land managers to inventory and prioritize deferred maintenance projects - source funding including collaborative grants to address maintenance needs - prepare prioritized projects for "shovel ready" funding	Great America Outdoors Act funding , collaborative/joint grant applications, PPORA Stewardship Fund, potential Colorado Springs LART increase with stewardship carve out			In Progress/Ongoing	
Incorporate bathroom facilities, accessible features and parking, trash receptacles, shade, and drinking water into planning of new parks and recreation areas within front country/urban environments.				In Progress/Ongoing	
FUNDING SUSTAINABILITY VISION/VALUE STATEMENT: A sustainable funding mechanism that crosses multiple jurisdictions and incorporates recreation and natural resource pillars is imperative to ensure a long term sustainable outdoor region for future generations.	STRATEGY: Identify sustainable funding mechanisms through partner agencies, public-private collaboration, creative financing, local support *Funding will be focused on further, but it was key to this conversation so captured here.				In Progress/Ongoing