East Area Plan

Steering Committee Meeting

May 24, 2018

Art Gym Denver
# East Area Plan

Steering Committee Meeting  
May 24, 2018  
ArtGym Denver, 1460 Leyden Street  
AGENDA

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<td>6:00-6:05</td>
<td>Approval of April Meeting Summary</td>
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<td>6:05-6:50</td>
<td>Vision Statement Development Activity: Healthy &amp; Active</td>
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<td>Vision Statement Development Activity: Environmentally Resilient</td>
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<td>Homework Assignment</td>
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Vision Statement Development

Opportunities Analysis
VISION ELEMENTS

1. Equitable, Affordable and Inclusive
2. Strong and Authentic Neighborhoods
3. Well Connected, Safe and Accessible Places
4. Economically Diverse and Vibrant
5. Environmentally Resilient
6. Healthy and Active
Healthy and Active
Health
Health

1,588 comments
21% of all comments

591 comments were associated with a pin on a map

Frequent words and phrases:
- Parks, green space
- Grocery
- Restaurants
- Walking distance
Likes

453 comments
29% of health comments

281 comments were associated with a pin on a map.
Dislikes
707 comments
45% of health comments

237 comments were associated with a pin on a map
Ideas

428 comments
27% of health comments

73 comments were associated with a pin on a map
Parks

484 comments
30% of health comments

Like (63%)
- Good parks (clean, maintained)
- Park amenities: playground, sports courts
- Activities: running, dog walking
- Pocket parks
- Parks in adjacent neighborhoods (City Park, Stapleton, Aurora)
- Parkways

Dislike (10%)
- Not enough parks
- Feel unsafe in parks
- Parks are poorly maintained
- Lack of community pool, recreation options

Ideas (27%)
- More parks (with designated space for different activities, including sports)
- Updated park amenities (including lighting and goal net for soccer field)
- Community pool
- Other park amenities (including playgrounds, picnic pavilion, rec center)
Existing Conditions: Parks

- Approximately **55%** of households are within a ten-minute (half-mile) walk to a park
- **67%** of all likes in the health category of survey responses were about parks
Food

226 comments
14% of health comments

Like (51%)
- Grocery options
- Restaurants and coffee shops
- Small markets
- Farmers’ markets

Dislike (11%)
- Lack of/limited access to healthy foods, grocery stores
- Poor quality of grocery stores
- Possibility of small shops closing to accommodate King Soopers expansion
- New, trendy restaurants will be lacking character, not welcoming to locals

Ideas (38%)
- More grocery options and small food stores (including diverse, women-owned)
- Communal/community gardens
- More farmers’ markets
- Food co-op, GrowHaus
- More restaurants (including “trendy” restaurants)
- Fast/casual dining options
Existing Conditions: Food

- **30%** of East households are within limited food access areas (entirely within East Colfax), compared to 24% citywide.
- Approximately **24%** of the households in the plan area are within a ten-minute walk of a full-service grocery store.
- Grocery stores and dining were the top two amenities listed in our survey.

![Top Amenities Chart]

- **Shopping (grocery)**
- **Dining**
- **Shopping (other) & Entertainment**
- **Recreational Activities**
- **Outdoor Seating & Plazas**
- **Cultural Amenities & Events**
- **Medical Services**
- **Education Opportunities**
- **Other**
- **Child Care**
- **Office Space**
Crime

738 comments
46% of health comments

Like (2%)
• Improved safety
• Meetings/awareness about crime

Dislike (74%)
• Crime, increase in crime
  • Drug-related
  • Violence
  • Property
  • Prostitution
  • Speeding traffic
• Poor lighting
• Feels unsafe
• Police helicopter circling

Ideas (23%)
• Increased police presence (including beat cops on foot)
• Enforcing laws
• Decrease crime
• Address motel-related crime
• Improve lighting
The rate of violent crimes per person in East is **slightly higher** than the citywide average.

The violent crime is concentrated on Colfax Avenue in East Colfax neighborhood, where it is almost double the citywide average.

Property crime rates are **slightly lower** in East than the citywide average, with a concentration in Montclair that is slightly higher than the citywide average.

78% of all health dislikes were related to crime.
Healthcare

71 comments
4% of health comments

Like (9%)
- Access to healthcare facilities (including multimodal access)
- Animal hospital

Dislike (59%)
- Lack of care/services for homeless population
- VA move

Ideas (31%)
- HIV clinic, needle centers
Approximately 25% of the households in the plan area are within a ten-minute walk of a hospital or clinic.

Approximately 130 people listed medical services as a top amenity.
Pollution

255 comments
16% of health comments

Like (3%)
- Quiet neighborhoods

Dislike (73%)
- Trash (including needles, empty bottles)
- Generally dirty
- Noise pollution
- Marijuana smoke

Ideas (24%)
- Trash cans
- Clean up Colfax generally
- Street sweeping
- Available/mandatory compost and recycling services
Existing Conditions: Equity

- The adult obesity rate in East is **22%**, compared to 27% citywide.
- East scores **3.2** on the Equity Index, which is **comparable** to the citywide average.
- **East Colfax scores 2.0**, which is the lowest score of all Denver neighborhoods, indicating that it has the greatest barriers to good health.
Key Opportunities

1. Well-maintained **parks and open spaces** with an appropriate mix of amenities and activities within walking distance of every household

2. **Affordable** and **healthy food**, including diverse grocery and restaurant options, within walking distance of every household

3. A neighborhood that **feels safe** and has **low crime**

4. A wide range of **affordable** and **accessible healthcare**, including supportive services, hospital care, and pharmacies

5. Clean streets, sidewalks, and parks with **minimal** air **pollution**

6. An **equitable** allocation of resources for people and areas facing the greatest barriers to good health
Discussion Activity

• Choose one or more *Key Opportunities* that you feel strongly about and should be a priority OR describe one that you feel is missing.

• Imagine you are in the year 2040 and are describing what this *Key Opportunity* looks like.

• Write 1 sentence on a sticky note. Start your description with “In 2040”, this will help you stay focused on *Outcomes* and not process.
Environmentally Resilient
Green Infrastructure
Environmentally Resilient

- 619 Total Comments (8%)
- Top Five Topics
  - Tree (47%)
  - Parkway (33%)
  - Colfax Avenue (22%)
  - Green Space (14%)
  - Community Garden (13%)
Likes

- 294 Comments
- 49% of Comments
Dislikes

- 89 Comments
- 15% Comments
Ideas

- 213 Comments
- 36% of Comments
Landscaping (87%)

- Likes
  - Abundance of old, mature trees in neighborhood
  - Design of Westerly Creek
  - Tree-lined avenues and parkways/green medians

- Dislikes
  - Inadequate & unmaintained streetscape along Colfax Avenue
  - Increasing amount of impervious surface

- Ideas
  - Micro parks/plaza space
  - Minimum landscape requirements
  - Community gardens
  - “Spruce-Up Colfax”
  - Hale Parkway “green-belt”
East Area Environmentally Resilient Existing Conditions

• The East Area has a tree canopy coverage of 41% which is higher than the Denver average of 19%

• The East Montclair/East Colfax Neighborhood Plan (1994) encourages landscape improvements along Quebec Street and Yosemite Street
Water (10%)

- **Likes**
  - Design of Westerly Creek water channel
  - Permeable land for storm water runoff on carriage lots

- **Dislikes**
  - Localized flooding
  - Poor water quality
  - Outdated storm water infrastructure

- **Ideas**
  - Reconfiguration of Hale Parkway
  - Replace storm water infrastructure
  - Reduce impervious surfaces
  - Modern irrigation systems
East Area Environmentally Resilient Existing Conditions

• **56%** of the East Area is considered impervious compared to the Denver average of **44%**

• The East Area is home to the Upper Montclair Basin – a *priority basin* for storm drainage and water quality improvements
Heat (2%)

- Likes
  - ✓ Abundant tree canopy keeps residential neighborhoods cool
- Dislikes
  - ✓ Lack of shade along Colfax Avenue
  - ✓ Loss of trees with new development
  - ✓ Too much asphalt
- Ideas
  - ✓ Plant more trees along Colfax Avenue to increase shade

Energy (1%)

- Likes
  - ✓ No commonalities identified
- Dislikes
  - ✓ No commonalities identified
- Ideas
  - ✓ Encourage and incentivize solar panel use in the area
  - ✓ Reduce energy consumption and cooling costs by planting more trees
East Area Environmentally Resilient Existing Conditions

- 7% of the East Area has a heat island designation of “hot” compared to the Denver average of 19%

- Park Hill Neighborhood Plan (2000) encourages funding for the planting of more trees
Key Opportunities

- Cool and shaded neighborhoods with an abundant tree canopy
- Rich open space network with connected parks, parkways, community gardens, plazas and natural waterways
- Lush landscaping along Colfax Avenue and within neighborhood destinations
- Neighborhoods safe from flooding
- Green storm water infrastructure provides beautification and is seamlessly integrated into the community
Discussion Activity

• Choose one or more *Key Opportunities* that you feel strongly about and should be a priority OR describe one that you feel is missing.

• Imagine you are in the year 2040 and are describing what this *Key Opportunity* looks like.

• Write 1 sentence on a sticky note. Start your description with “In 2040”, this will help you stay focused on *Outcomes* and not process.
Ideas Needing Direction / Guiding Principle

1. Improved Pedestrian Environment, Bike Lanes, and Transit vs. Convenient Driving
2. More Parking vs. Less Parking
3. Affordable Development vs. Design Quality
4. Transforming Colfax Corridor vs. Preserving Character (Physical, Social, and Economic)
5. Additional Housing Needs vs. Residential Character Preservation
6. Desire for More Jobs, Businesses and Services vs. Residential Character Preservation
7. Thriving Businesses, Events, and Parks vs. Residential Character Preservation
FAQs and Announcements