

CHAPTER 9: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Eastlake Subarea Plan includes numerous goals and recommendations intended to improve the Eastlake Subarea, to preserve the historic agricultural character of the Eastlake Neighborhood, and to revitalize the Eastlake commercial district to serve northern Thornton residents, employees, transit users, and visitors. The Implementation Plan of the Eastlake Subarea identifies key steps to realize these goals. Some of the goals and recommendations are possible without a rail-based transit line being established in the Eastlake Neighborhood, while others are based on the assumption that transit will come to the area.

Transportation

The intent of the transportation goals and recommendations is to improve access to Eastlake through the implementation of a multi-modal transportation, while preventing cut-through access through the neighborhood. The following tasks will help to realize the transportation goals and recommendations for the Eastlake Subarea.

1. Offer City of Thornton political support for the funding and construction of the line. The project will be managed by the Regional Transportation District;
2. Promote the FasTracks proposal to fund the North Metro rail-based transit line. FasTracks is a funding initiative that the Regional Transportation District will be taking to the voters in November of 2003 or 2004. If approved by voters, FasTracks will provide funding for construction of the rail-based transit line through Thornton;
3. Realign 124th Avenue to connect to 126th Avenue to the west;
4. Realign Claude Count to improve traffic movement and to create an area for the planned transit stop;
5. Extend Lafayette Street to connect to Washington Center Parkway to the south;
6. Construct the trails improvements recommended in Chapter 4 of this Plan;

Parks, Open Space and Trails

The goals and recommendations related to Parks, Open Space and Trails seek to improve the level of service offered to residents, employees and visitors to the Eastlake Subarea and to improve the multi-modal transportation system.

1. Create an active park adjacent to the railroad tracks, south of 124th
2. Construct a linear park in the City-owned property along the railroad tracks. Save space to accommodate needed parking in this area.
3. Install trail connections to allow access to trails in the area surrounding Eastlake.

Land Use

The land use goals and recommendations of the Plan are intended to enhance and re-create the five distinct zones within the Eastlake Neighborhood and to preserve the Neighborhood's small-town character.

1. Revise and adopt a strengthened Eastlake Preservation/Revitalization Zoning District to enact key land use recommendations.
2. Direct developers, City staff and others to use the Eastlake Subarea Plan as a guide for new development in the Eastlake Neighborhood.

Historic Conservation and Urban Design

The goals and recommendations related to historic conservation and urban design intend to maintain and enhance the historic small-town character of the Eastlake Neighborhood as redevelopment and development occur in the area.

1. Consider adopting a local historic preservation ordinance to protect those structures that contribute to the history of Thornton.
2. Research the availability of State Historical Society grant funding to conserve and enhance the unique character of Eastlake and apply for funding when appropriate.
3. Revise the Eastlake Preservation/Revitalization zoning district to implement key design guidelines of the Eastlake Subarea Plan.
4. Direct developers, City staff and others working in the Eastlake Neighborhood to use the Subarea Plan as a guide for new development.

Water Infrastructure

The City is committed to continued discussions with the Eastlake Water and Sanitation District regarding Eastlake's water issues.

Economic Development

The intent of the economic development goals and recommendations of the Plan are to capture the affluent and growing market of the area surrounding Eastlake and to revitalize the Eastlake commercial zones.

1. Coordinate with the Eastlake business owners and the City of Thornton Business Development Marketing Specialist to create increased visibility for the Eastlake Neighborhood.
2. Consider revising the Eastlake development incentives to include retail businesses on a case-by-case basis. At present the incentives are available to only professional services.
3. Enhance the Eastlake commercial district by expanding business development to the west side of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.