

UNDISCOVERED QUALITY OF LIFE

CASPER WILL BE COMPRISED OF CREATIVE, SAFE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOODS AND GATHERING AREAS WHERE ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS CAN ENJOY RICH CULTURE, STUNNING VISTAS, VAST OPEN SPACES, RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, AND BIG CITY AMENITIES.



Recreational Opportunities along the North Platte River

Principles and Goals

UQL1. STABLE NEIGHBORHOODS: Ensure neighborhoods retain a complementary character across architectural form and use, yet allow for unique and creative design solutions amongst neighborhoods.



UQL1-1. Density Transect: Compel design that mitigates impacts of high-density development on established neighborhoods by maintaining a transect of built form, with compatible design and scale in each land use zone.

UQL1-2. Neighborhood Groups: Foster more neighborhood "pride" in which people identify with certain neighborhoods or areas through the creation of friendly, safe, familiar, and connected neighborhoods and support of neighborhood programs.

UQL1-3. Neighborhood-Specific Plans: Identify areas in need of a neighborhood subarea plan to identify specific needs such as schools, grocery stores, connections, code enforcement, amenities, street trees, etc.

UQL1-4. Housing Options: Working with the neighborhood and HUD, encourage a range of housing options in North Casper and other parts of the community.

THE ADOPTED PARKS AND OPEN SPACE GOALS:

1. Make our parks appealing to motivate people to spend more time enjoying them;
2. Ensure that every household is within one-third of a mile (10 minutes) of a quality park or school playground; and
3. Provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

- City of Casper 2014 Parks and Open Space Improvement Plan

UQL2. QUALITY NEIGHBORHOODS: Encourage a small town feel by utilizing a variety of housing options that are supported by a safe and efficient transportation system, neighborhood services and amenities for all household types.



UQL2-1. Neighborhood Streets: Implement standards for residential neighborhood streets to create safe pedestrian connections and characteristics similar to traditional neighborhoods.

UQL2-2. Mixed Use Neighborhoods: Provide for commercial uses in and adjacent to residential neighborhoods in a manner that contributes to the neighborhood's integrity and identity through thoughtful design of signage, lighting, buffers, and parking.

UQL2-3. Site-Conscious Design: Develop well-designed neighborhoods in the foothills that limit grading by working with the natural topography, avoid blocking views to Casper Mountain, and ensure that rooflines are not visible above the ridgeline.

UQL2-4. Community Housing: Implement land use changes that encourage diverse housing options and affordability by integrating the latest tools, incentives, and code options.

UQL2-5. Public Places: Provide public places in each neighborhood through neighborhood parks, community gardens, and/or corner shops or cafes, which contribute to preserving small-town characteristics.

UQL2-6. Neighborhood Parks: Provide neighborhood parks and greenways at no greater distance than one-third mile from all residences. Maintain existing neighborhood and community parks, and when developing new parks, provide a mix of design and amenities that add interest and contribute to neighborhood identity.

UQL2-7. Recreation Facilities: Identify the need and establish priorities for park, recreation, and aquatic facilities, including type and locations.



DEVELOPING A MAKERS' DISTRICT

Omaha, Nebraska is following in the footsteps of cities across the country in creating a dedicated district for artists, artisans, and fabricators.

Future Forward LLC has been moving this project forward, buying parcels of land in the designated area. This "forgotten area" near their downtown is rooted in a history of light industrial and manufacturing, and is well positioned to provide affordable live/work opportunities for the city's creative entrepreneurs.

A special use zoning designation for the district will help the project overcome development hurdles.

Proponents of the plan envision this area for makers, techies, artisans, and entrepreneurs as well as an area that will form a mutually beneficial relationship with the adjacent downtown.

- Omaha World Herald, December 21, 2016 (http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/workspace-for-creative-thinkers-proposal-calls-for-omaha-makers-district/article_456286d7-41c9-547d-8e2a-5ed114d58d71.html)



East of the downtown would be a prime location for a "Makers' District". Growing in popularity across the US, these districts transform vacant, industrial areas into work-live spaces for industrial, manufacturing, agricultural and creative industries. By revitalizing industrial areas and including affordable housing options, Casper would be able to build on existing human capital and housing stock. This area would capitalize on affordable land costs of the underutilized land close to the urban core, strengthening Downtown's vibrancy in the process. Current hurdles to this type of development include zoning regulations and building/safety codes.

UQL3. RICH CULTURE: Promote an unexpected quality of life through art, community facilities, and enhanced community pride.



UQL3-1. Community Involvement: Enhance community pride through celebrating Casper's amenities and assets. Explore new ways to provide consistent messaging through apps, kiosks, and educational art.

UQL3-2. Interactive Art: Promote culture and arts through improving art venues, developing outdoor performance venues, and encouraging interactive art throughout every neighborhood.

UQL3-3. Concentrated Facilities: Centralize new public and private cultural, art, and civic facilities to support existing facilities and create a synergy between these institutions. Cultural facilities shall be located to take advantage of and support commercial activities.

UQL4. INTEGRATED PATHS: Create a vast network of interconnected open spaces and recreational resources.



UQL4-1. Finishing the Gaps: Complete the gaps in the trail system and connect the Platte River Parkway to other regional trails, adjacent communities, and destinations.

UQL4-2. Core Connections: Create a connected trail system and dedicated bike lanes within the urban core that connect to key destinations around the city. Enhance the Rail Trail with shelters, kiosks, murals, and public amenities to increase interest in adjacent economic development.

UQL4-3. Platte River Parkway Connections: Increase safety and ease of access from the Parkway to Downtown Casper.

UQL4-4. Trail Network: Improve the network of trails, greenways, and off-street paths and sidewalks.

UQL4-5. Natural and Historic Routes: Utilize drainageways and abandoned railroad rights-of-way as supplements to the primary parks, open space, greenways, and trails system.

UQL4-6. Riverwalk: Embrace the River through the construction of a Riverwalk that integrates shopping, restaurants, and entertainment adjacent to the river, where appropriate.

UQL4-7. Casper Mountain Trails: Contribute to a trail system on Casper Mountain via the Central Wyoming Trails Alliance and other groups dedicated to trails in the Casper area.