

EMBRACING THE RIVER

CASPER WILL ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD-CLASS NORTH PLATTE RIVER AND A NETWORK OF TRAILS THAT ARE VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY LINKED TO COMMERCIAL CENTERS TO FOSTER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

Principles and Goals

ETR1. OUTDOOR CITY: Promote Casper as an outdoor city and capitalize on its natural assets.



ETR1-1. Commercial Branding: Encourage new energy and commercial development around the North Platte River through a marketing campaign to rebrand the area between Downtown, the Old Yellowstone District, and the River as the “Riverfront District.”

ETR1-2. River Redevelopment: Encourage the development of land adjacent to the river to address the demand for urban living and services with nearby natural amenities and river views.

ETR1-3. River Transition: Work to identify underutilized industrial buildings and promote the redevelopment of valuable areas for public use. New development should face the river and integrate amenities.

ETR1-4. River Health: Promote the health of the North Platte River and its drainageways and riparian areas by investing in river restoration projects and protecting the overall ecosystem, thereby, creating a unique place to recreate (including additional trail corridors, whitewater paddle boarding, tubing, etc.), and expanding the Blue Ribbon Fishery.

ETR1-5. Recreation Economy: Use the North Platte River to foster economic development through addressing existing river recreation businesses and incentivizing river-based recreation technology businesses to relocate to Casper.

ETR1-6. Wildlife Corridors: Protect wildlife corridors from the mountains to the river, including the floodplain areas along Casper Creek, Garden Creek, and Elkhorn Creek.

ETR1-7. Passive Open Space: Coordinate with state and local park and recreation agencies to provide adequate passive open space areas and corridors for critical wildlife.

ETR1-8. Stormwater Management: Protect the Platte River water quality and its associated wildlife through management and natural treatment of stormwater runoff.

ETR1-9. River Protection: Preserve the North Platte River as a recreation corridor with development easements that prioritize public access and river health. Investigate additional, subsidiary trail systems along Casper Creek, Garden Creek, and Elkhorn Creek.



Trailhead connecting the urban center to the river



Public spaces and economic development along the North Platte River

ETR2. CELEBRATED RECREATION: Offer parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of residents and visitors.



ETR2-1. Parks Level of Service: Follow the standards and recommendations set in the Parks and Open Space Plan and the Casper Area Trails, Path and Bikeway Plan.

ETR2-2. River Recreation: Capitalize on the river frontage through the city by promoting river activities and river recreation businesses through designating and designing a portion of the North Platte River for leisure and sporting activities.

ETR2-3. Outdoor Recreation Lifestyle: Enhance the recreational amenities that support and retain young families through increasing neighborhood parks, recreation centers, and other recreational assets.

ETR2-4. Riverfront Destinations: Encourage the development of commercial properties and additional structures and utilities that support restaurants and retail, and temporary commercial businesses.

ETR2-5. North Casper: Develop connections to and amenities within the area around the riverfront in North Casper.

ETR2-6. Casper Mountain: Identify and support needed improvements or expansion of recreational facilities on Casper Mountain through coordination with Natrona County.

ETR2-7. Park Maintenance Improvements: Invest in the maintenance and upgrade of existing parks and recreation facilities, consider maintenance costs during design phases, and look for long-term value and bang for the buck.

RIVERFRONT SUCCESSES

The Columbus, Indiana Redevelopment Commission designated a riverfront district to enhance the city's appeal, improve economic vitality, and optimize the enjoyment of its natural features.

The creation of the Riverfront Development District removed downtown development barriers and allowed the State of Indiana to grant a district-wide liquor license.

- <http://www.columbus.in.gov/cityofcolumbus/assets/File/columbus-riverfront-district.pdf>

