

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES IN LARIMER COUNTY, COLORADO



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**CAPSTONE PROJECT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL SATISFACTION
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Larimer County in Colorado encompasses over 2,600 square miles from the border of Wyoming along the Front Range and eastern plains (see Figure 1). The county includes Fort Collins and Loveland, smaller towns such as Estes Park and Windsor, as well as two census-designated places and 20 unincorporated communities. Larimer County has recently completed a new master plan and is now working towards prioritizing long-range planning in various subareas of the county.

This capstone aims to provide a Community Engagement Plan for the rural centers and subareas of Larimer County during the initial engagement phase. The goal of this phase is to obtain input from the public regarding the communities' future and needs. Rural communities are often harder to involve in the planning process due to distance and smaller populations, having an engagement plan in place will provide direction for the County in how to successfully involve residents in these areas.

Based on land use, geography/topography, and physical location within Larimer County, towns were combined into four groupings: Northern Mountains, Southern Mountains, Suburbs, and Plains.

Northern Mountain Group includes:

- Red Feather Lakes
- Rustic
- Stove Prairie Landing
- Glacier View Meadows
- Poudre Park

Southern Mountain Group includes:

- Drake
- Glen Haven
- Pinewood Springs

Suburb Group includes:

- Bellvue

- Laporte
- Masonville

Plains Group includes:

- Buckeye
- Livermore
- Virginia Dale
- Waverly

Community engagement recommendations are tailored to each group, with a separate category for strategies applicable to all groups. The recommendations are as follows (more detail can be found in the full report):

Strategies for all groups:

- Online surveys
- Website and social media updates
- Community meetings
- Partnerships
- Focus groups

- Northern Mountain Group:
 - HOA and community newsletters
- Mail-in comment cards
- Flash drive requests
- Community liaisons
- Board meetings

Southern Mountain Group:

- HOA newsletters
- Mail-in comment cards
- Flash drive requests
- Community liaisons

Suburb Group:

- News releases
- Open houses
- Board meetings

Plains Group:

- Open houses
- News releases
- Board meetings