

## Our Community's Priorities

City Plan, the city's guiding strategic document, offers direction for land use and development:

- Protect and enhance natural habitats, ecosystems and wildlife values
- Mitigate impacts to or loss of sensitive natural resources
- Contain development within Growth Management Area boundary
- Promote infill and redevelopment in targeted areas
- Maintain efficient and fair system of development fees and requirements

## Challenges with Prairie Dogs on Development Sites

- Increased development pressure on private properties with prairie dogs
- Prairie dog colonies pushed to smaller and smaller sites
- Prairie dogs contribute to urban wildlife diversity
- Prairie dogs are valued component of the urban landscape
- Ongoing community member interest in protecting prairie dogs

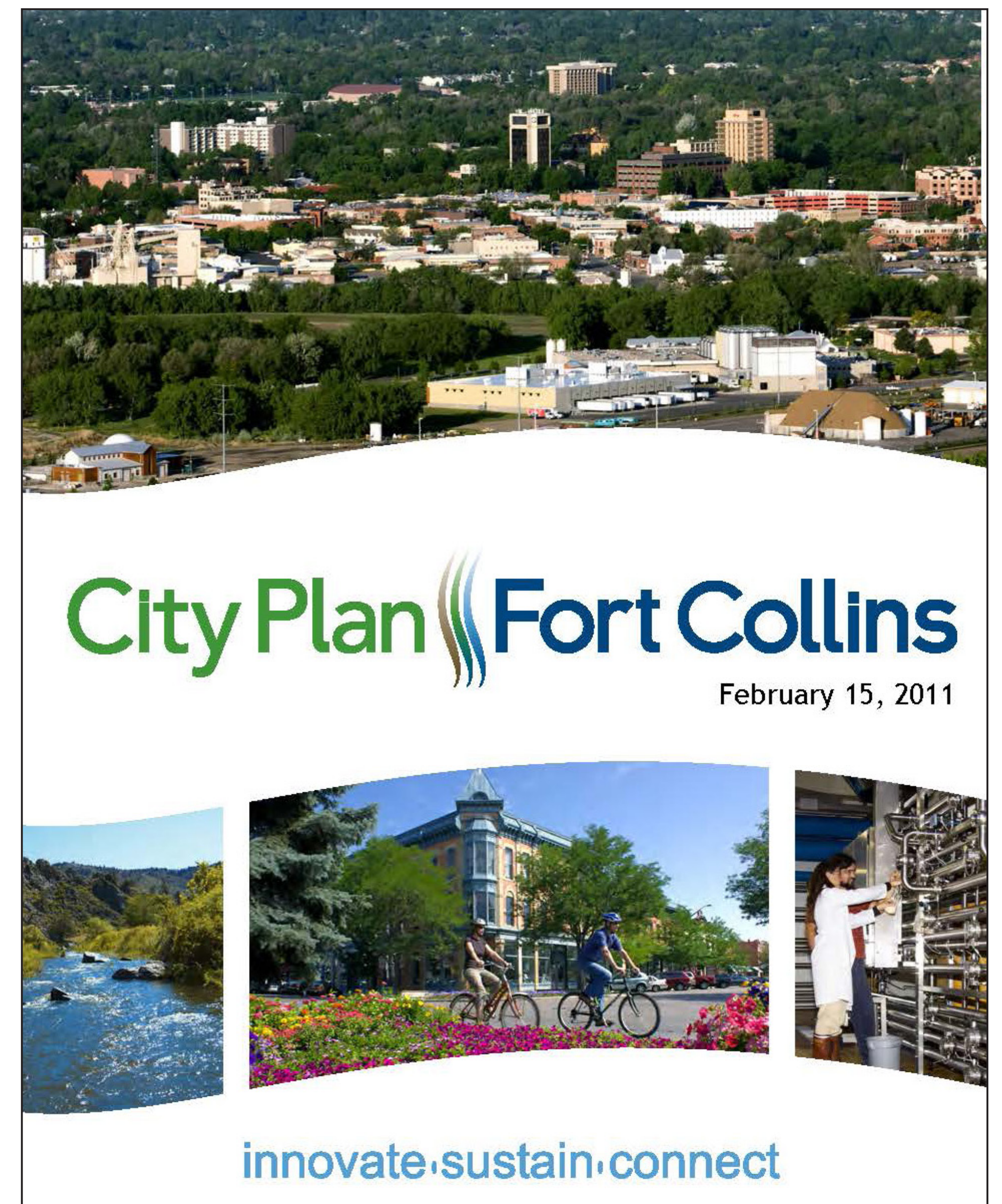


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## Land Use Code Regulations

Natural features and wildlife habitat are protected by Section 3.4.1 of the Land Use Code.

### Prairie Dog Specific Requirements:

- Protection or mitigation is required for colonies >50 acres in size
- Development must minimize conflicts with adjacent prairie dog colonies through barriers, fencing and other methods
- Prairie dog relocation or eradication is required prior to grading or construction
- Prairie dogs may be live-trapped and relocated to another property; live-trapped and euthanized; or fumigated on-site

### Sensitive and Specially Valued Species:

- Specifies protection for wildlife and plant species that are considered “sensitive” or “specially valued”
- Protects species that are threatened, endangered or “of concern”
- Many species are also covered by state and federal laws or other Land Use Code sections
- The Land Use Code references an outdated “species of concern” list and needs to be updated



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## **Prairie Dogs on Development Sites: Proposed Land Use Code Changes**

- 1. Eliminate the 50-acre threshold** for protection and/or mitigation for prairie dog colonies
- 2. Evaluate protection or mitigation requirements** for all development sites with prairie dog colonies, on a case-by-case basis
- 3. Allow only carbon monoxide fumigation** methods for lethal removal (more humane than other fumigants)
- 4. Require a report to be submitted** that documents the timing and methods used to remove prairie dogs from a development site
- 5. Update “sensitive and specially valued species”** definition and species list and allow some flexibility for protection and/or mitigation of impacts

**What Questions or Comments Do You Have on the Proposed Changes?**