

“We need nature in our lives more than ever, and as more of us are living in cities, it must be urban nature.”

-Professor Timothy Beatley, biophiliccities.org

nature in the city

Community Issues Forum
Bruce Hendee, Lindsay Ex
March 26, 2014



Why Nature in the City?



Project Goal

Develop a vision and strategic plan for incorporating nature into the urban environment

**Phase 1:
Inventory And
Assessment**

**Phase 2:
Strategic Plan**

**Phase 3:
Implement**

Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement

Environmental

- Value to Species (Environmental)
 - Partnership with CSU to sample 160 sites across the City
 - Birds, butterflies and vegetation
 - Site and landscape sampling
 - Citizen science opportunities



Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement

Environmental

Social

- Value to People (Social)
 - Benefits of nature (physical and mental health, social interactions)
 - How people use and value nature
 - Build on existing work
 - Informal and formal natural spaces



Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement

Environmental

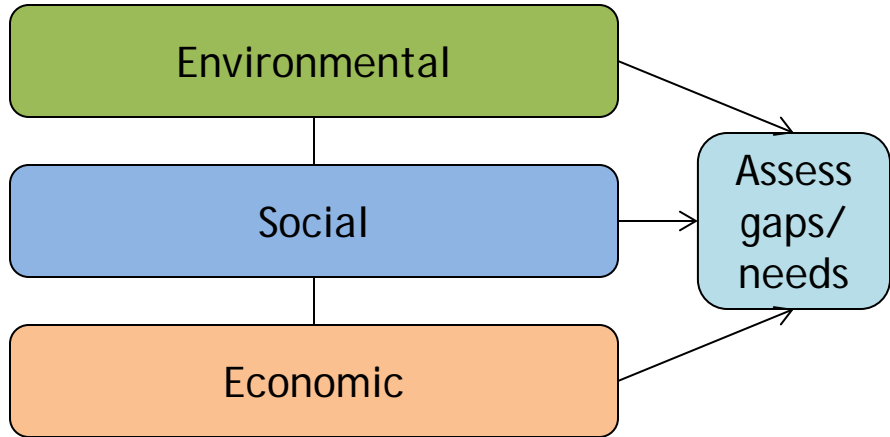
Social

Economic

- Value to People (Economic)
 - How do property values change with proximity to nature
 - How does proximity to nature affect business attraction, retention, etc.
 - What ecosystem services do these spaces provide?



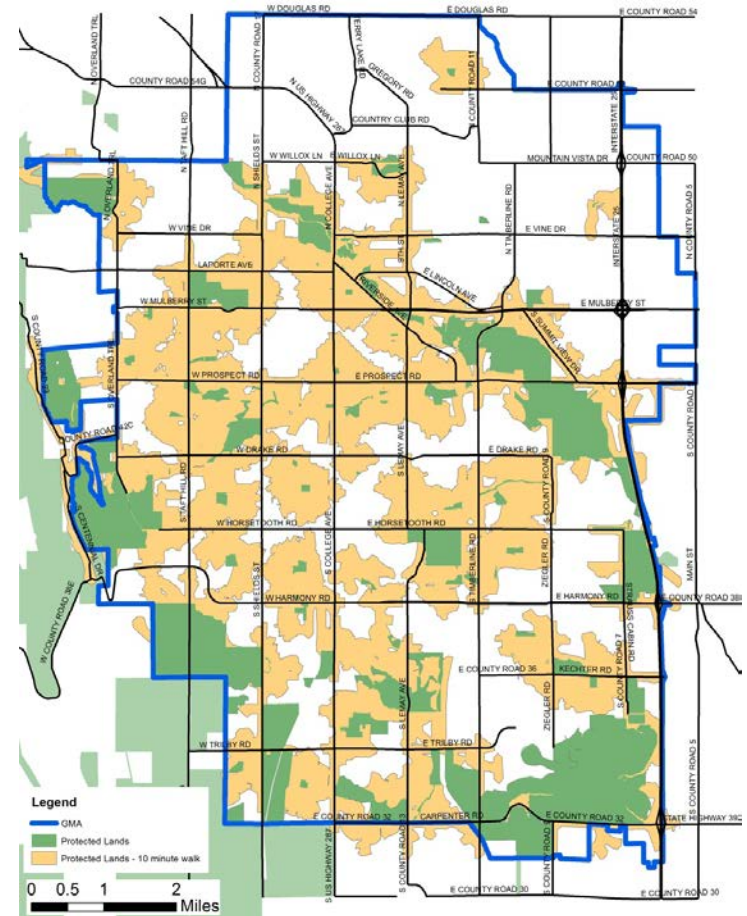
Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment



- Assessment of Nature in the City
 - Understand quality of different spaces from a triple bottom line perspective
 - Be able to identify gaps in access (quantity)

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement



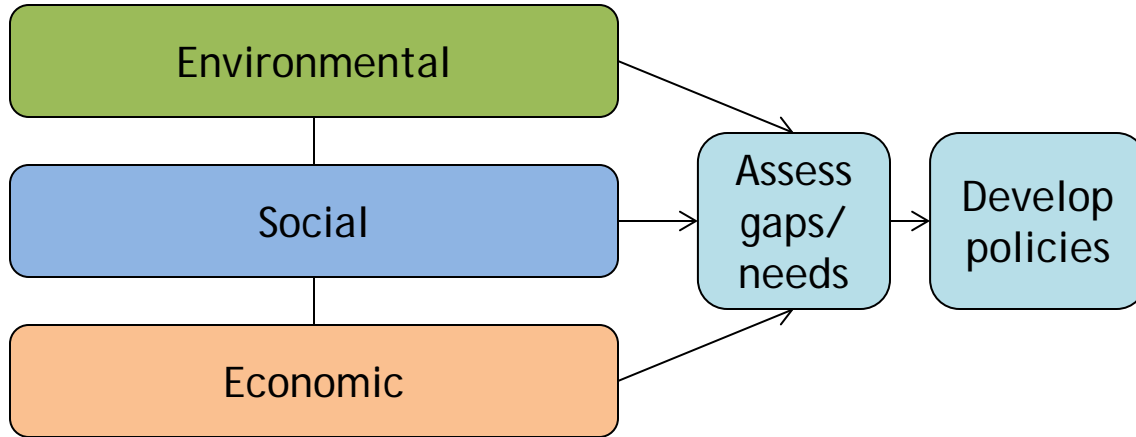
10 minute walking distance (orange) to public lands (green)



Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement



- From the assessment, develop policies to address key gaps and needs

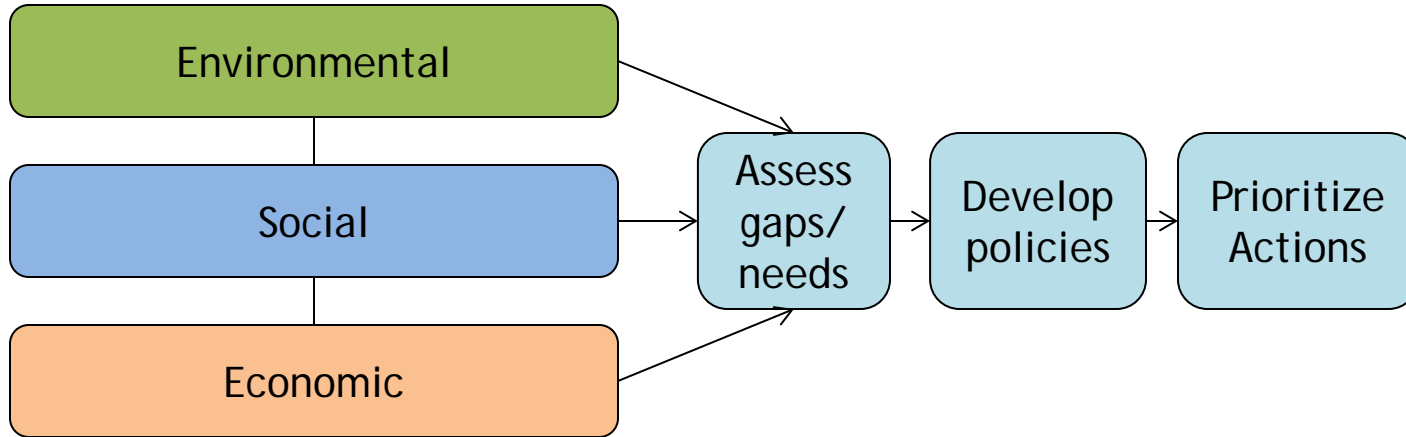


Nashville Naturally Plan for Downtown
(The Conservation Fund)

Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement



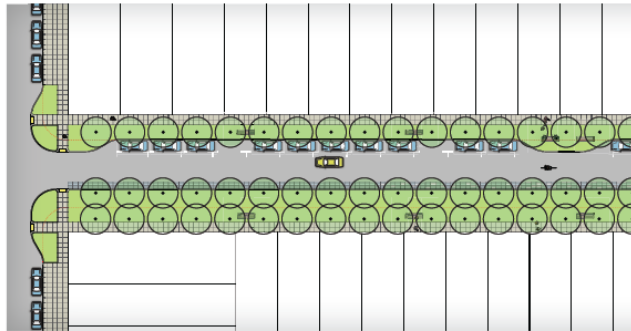
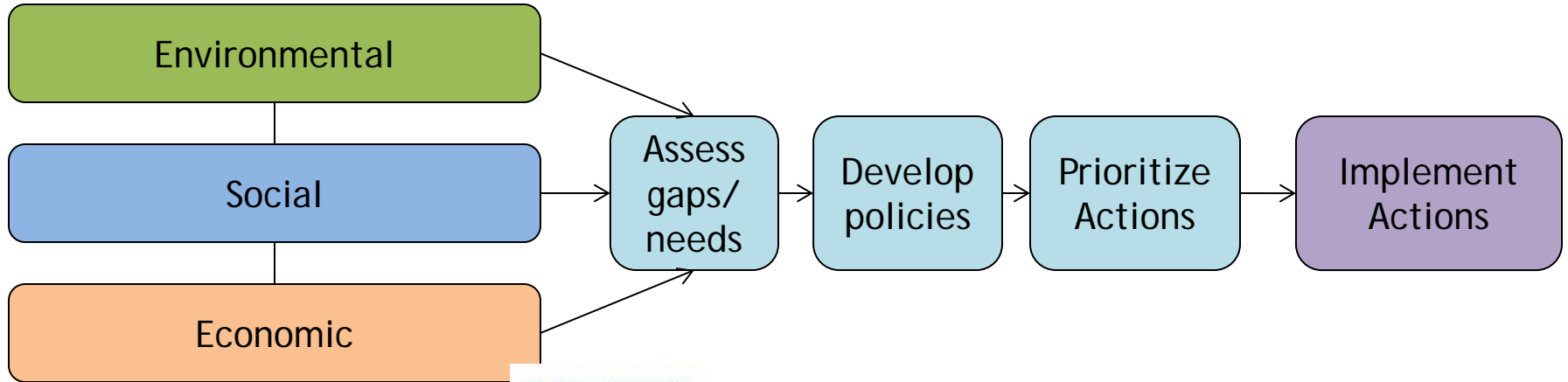
- Prioritize implementation based on values and key needs



Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement



San Francisco Green Connections

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION	
Support Pedestrians	●●●●●●
Support Bikes	●●●○●○
Calm Traffic	●●●●○●
URBAN ECOLOGY	
Manage Stormwater	●●●●●●
Enhance Habitat	●●●●●●
NEIGHBORHOOD STEWARDSHIP AND PLACEMAKING	
Potential Increase in Usable Public Space	●●●●●●
ABILITY TO IMPLEMENT	
Cost Effective (Low cost scores highly)	●○○○○○
Ease of Maintenance	●●○○○○
TRAFFIC AND PARKING CONSIDERATIONS	
Moderate to High Parking Loss	

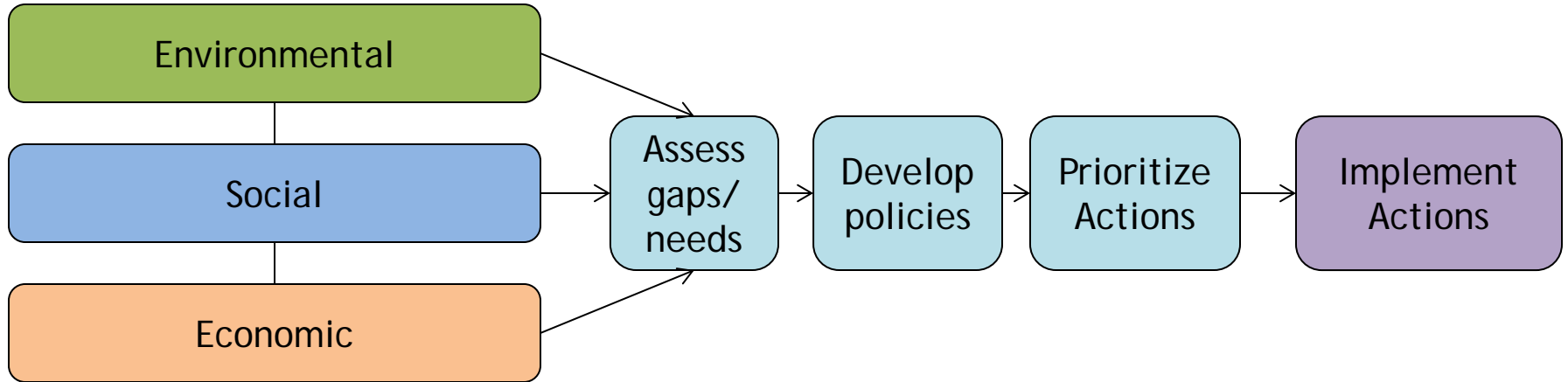
- Implement actions
 - Design guidelines
 - Land Use Code changes



Phase 1: Inventory And Assessment

Phase 2: Strategic Plan

Phase 3: Implement



January –
September 2014

August – December 2014

Spring 2015



Where
We Are
Now



Who is helping with this?

- **Project Team**

- Planning
- Sustainability Services
- Utilities
- Natural Areas
- Parks
- Fort Collins Housing Authority
- FCMoves
- IT
- Neighborhood Services
- Forestry
- Communications Office
- Colorado State University

- **Citizens Advisory Committee**

- Environmental Groups
- Business Community (Chamber)
- Design community
- Health community (CanDo)
- Citizen at-large
- Senior Citizens
- Poudre School District
- Natural Resources Advisory Board
- Landscape companies
- Larimer County (Plug in to Nature)
- Urban Agriculture
- Students (CSU)

...and you!

Tonight's Goals:

- **We want to better understand the following:**
 - Who is in the audience (demographics)
 - Where you access nature in our community
 - Both close to home and throughout the city
 - What the opportunities and barriers are related to accessing nature
 - Why you value nature
 - What the most critical issue for us to work on with this project

What part of the City do you live in? (by quadrant)

12 1. East of College Ave and North of Drake

14 2. East of College Ave and South of Drake

19 3. West of College Ave and North of Drake

3 4. West of College Ave and South of Drake



What part of the City do you work in? (by quadrant)

4 1. East of College Ave and North of Drake

5 2. East of College Ave and South of Drake

17 3. West of College Ave and North of Drake

1 4. West of College Ave and South of Drake

1 5. Work outside Fort Collins

17 6. Don't currently work



What is your race?

1

1. Asian

0

2. Black

0

3. Hispanic

40

4. White

0

5. Native American

0

6. Hawaiian/Pacific Islander

0

7. Multi-racial

2

8. Prefer not to answer



What is your household income?

3	1. \$21,999 or less
10	2. \$22,000-58,999
11	3. \$59,000-87,999
12	4. \$88,000-149,999
1	5. \$150,000-\$249,999
0	6. \$250,000 or more
6	7. Prefer not to answer



Where do you access nature in the city?

(choose all that apply)

- 39 1. Natural Areas
- 42 2. Parks
- 26 3. Open space in my neighborhood (HOA or other)
- 16 4. Open space at my office or where I shop
- 17 5. Schools
- 19 6. Community gardens or local farms
- 37 7. Streams, creeks or canals
- 2 8. I don't access nature
- 1 9. I don't access nature within the city
- 12 10. Other



In what part of the City do you most often access nature?

- 6 1. East of College Ave and North of Drake
- 8 2. East of College Ave and South of Drake
- 21 3. West of College Ave and North of Drake
- 11 4. West of College Ave and South of Drake
- 0 5. I don't access nature in the city



Why do you choose to spend time in nature?

(choose top 3 in order)

- 48 1. Escape from urban environment
- 30 2. Wildlife (intrinsic value or viewing)
- 64 3. Personal exercise or play
- 24 4. Family exercise or play
- 17 5. Fresh Air/Respite from Heat
- 24 6. Convenience/It's Close to Home
- 54 7. To Experience Beauty, Aesthetics
- 15 8. To be Close to Water
- 15 9. To Walk My Dog/Pet
- 8 10. (press 0) Other



Which of these values are most important in your neighborhood? (choose top 3 in order)

- 46 1. Escape from urban environment
- 37 2. Wildlife (intrinsic value or viewing)
- 60 3. Personal exercise or play
- 32 4. Family exercise or play
- 13 5. Fresh Air/Respite from Heat
- 20 6. Convenience/It's Close to Home
- 58 7. To Experience Beauty, Aesthetics
- 3 8. To be Close to Water
- 20 9. To Walk My Dog/Pet
- 0²¹ 10. (press 0) Other



Considering our current strengths and weaknesses, which should this project focus on the most for the city overall? (choose top 3 in order)

- 62 1. Escape from urban environment
- 50 2. Wildlife (intrinsic value or viewing)
- 11 3. Personal exercise or play
- 14 4. Family exercise or play
- 22 5. Fresh Air/Respite from Heat
- 53 6. Convenience/It's Close to Home
- 51 7. To Experience Beauty, Aesthetics
- 11 8. To be Close to Water
- 1 9. To Walk My Dog/Pet
- 1²² 10.(Press O) Other





Thank you!

To Learn More or Get Involved:

Project Website: www.fcgov.com/natureinthecity

Join our email list!

Contact me: lex@fcgov.com; 970.224.6143