

# 3 Chapter 3

## Values, Vision, and Guiding Principles



*Figure 3-1: Drop structures along James Creek*

The vision and values of Jamestown for this Comprehensive Plan update is derived from the community values and vision presented in the Nine Guiding Principles, Jamestown Area Long Term Recovery Plan (LTRP) and the Land Use and Housing Study. The Jamestown community spent many months on the development of the LTRP and, although the process was not for the preparation of a comprehensive plan, community values were identified and a vision established that remain valid and should be respected.

This Comprehensive Plan update continues the aspects and elements of these planning efforts (including the 1981 Comprehensive Plan and the LTRP) as well as builds a continued long term approach to ensure the vision and values of the community are honored and upheld through appropriate, town-specific goals, policies, and strategies.

## **Vision Statements**

### ***The Built Environment***

Jamestown is a unique mountain town with residential properties, necessary facilities to support those residences, and enough activity to support the Merc. New opportunities and affordable housing options allow for a diverse population that includes families that support the continuance of the Jamestown Elementary School.

Jamestown develops and evolves in a manner that enhances public gathering spaces while ensuring privacy and quality of life. Residents have ease of mobility and pedestrians, cyclists and automobiles move safely around town. Infrastructure is integrated into the mountain environment and systems are resilient and environmentally, financially, and technologically sustainable. The rural, unpaved roads contribute to the mountain character.

### ***The Natural Environment***

Jamestown is a community that acts as a good steward of the region's ecosystem; one that lives with nature and not in conflict with it. The community is committed to share the beauty of and teach respect for the mountain canyon and its flora and fauna. Accessible natural resources that support outdoor recreational opportunities help retain the aesthetic and tranquil character of the community. Culturally significant landmarks that contribute to the community's sense of place are well preserved.

### ***Governance***

Jamestown is a place of local autonomy, self-government, and self-sufficiency. Residents, who value inclusivity, acceptance, and transparency, are highly engaged and unified as a community in decisions that affect them. Communication between residents and their local government is strong as a fiscally responsible future for the Town is secured.

### ***Supportive Services***

Jamestown holds a strong sense of community and neighborliness that includes the greater Jamestown area. Jamestown is a diverse and tolerant community accepting all individuals, families, and groups. Vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly and homebound, are supported by community members who fill many of the service gaps not provided by the Town. As a resilient and self-reliant community, residents continually improve levels of emergency preparedness and response as well as mitigate against future wild fires and floods.

### ***Culture***

A vibrant community through arts, culture, recreation and history is the Jamestown tradition and identity. Residents foster a rich music and arts community and promote town facilities - such as Elysian Park and the Town Square - that provide a presentation ground where everyone can participate. Community assets are robust and engaging and this vital tradition for the community is enhanced over time.

## The Nine Guiding Principles

In 2013, the Jamestown community developed and adopted nine Guiding Principles to help guide decisions and directions not only for the near term but also for decades to come. The following are the Nine Guiding Principles:

1. **Character of the Community/Sense of Place:** Make planning decisions that promote Jamestown's unique sense of place and distinctive community character. Residents want to be engaged and unified as a community in decisions that affect them.
2. **Diverse Social and Economic Structure:** Promote the wellbeing of a diverse and tolerant community accepting all individuals, families, and groups. The community strongly expressed their requirement for inclusivity and acceptance of all in community decision making.
3. **Arts and Culture:** Foster a vibrant arts community which supports local artists and the preservation of culturally significant landmarks to contribute to the community's sense of place. This mountain community is traditionally connected to art in all its many splendid forms and wants to keep them vital in Jamestown.
4. **Autonomy, Self-Governance and Self-Reliance:** Uphold Jamestown traditions which promote local autonomy, self-government, and self-sufficiency. Traditionally, Jamestown has had a transparent and limited approach to governing their community and has expressed a strong desire to continue with their traditional approach to government.
5. **Environmental Preservation:** Enhance the management of natural resources to support outdoor recreational opportunities and to preserve the aesthetic and tranquil character of the community. The mountain community of Jamestown is committed to share the beauty of and teach respect for the mountain canyon and its flora and fauna.
6. **Infrastructure:** Design infrastructure that features integrated and resilient systems that are environmentally, financially, and technologically sustainable. Residents expressed interest in building a sustainable community with a low impact upon the environment.
7. **Be Economically Sustainable:** Improve Town revenue levels and optimize future funding opportunities. Jamestown realizes that economic viability is necessary to ensure municipal solvency and responsible maintenance of infrastructure.
8. **Community Development:** Guide Jamestown in a manner that enhances public gathering spaces and maintains affordable housing options while ensuring exiting privacy and quality of life. The community sees the need to continue the character of Jamestown through affordable housing, open spaces, a strong regard for privacy, and access to the natural environment.
9. **Children and Families:** Protect local institutions, traditions and resources that support youth education and strong families. The community expressed a strong desire to be a community that would be attractive for young families through affordable housing, and identifiable community places such as the school, the Merc, town square and church.

## Value and Vision Statements of the Jamestown Area Long Term Recovery Plan

Between 2013 and 2016, the Town conducted two additional planning processes that harnessed community values and developed a vision for the community. These processes resulted in the *Jamestown Area Long Term Recovery Plan (LTRP)* and the *Land Use and Housing Study*.

During the *LTRP* process, the community planning groups actively sought input from area residents throughout the planning process through a series of community events. Each was designed to offer different environments and different methods of engagement in order to solicit the most feedback from a diverse population. The Nine Guiding Principles were used to help frame the conversation.

Residents expressed a strong desire for improving communication between residents and their local government and securing a fiscally sustainable future for the Town. They were supportive of maintaining strong emergency services, restoring the natural environment, expanding community assets, increasing mobility through town, increasing support for vulnerable populations (especially seniors), and replacing lost housing from the 2013 flood event.

The following are the vision and value statements from that outreach process:

- Create a more open, transparent, participatory and inclusive local government.
- Build a strong sense of community that includes the greater Jamestown area.
- Restore the community value of self-reliance.
- Foster a sense of safety by being prepared and planning and mitigating for fire and flood.
- Ensure we sustain diversity in our population through affordability and opportunity.
- Resolve long-standing traffic and road issues.
- Restore and enhance the community's appearance and natural conditions.
- Keep Jamestown "Jamestown".

From these vision and value statements, areas of focus were created and the community intension expanded:

### ***Healthy Local Government and Civic Culture***

Jamestown is driven by volunteers. The Town has a very small budget and staff. Things get done when someone steps up to make it happen. Invigorated local participation in community decision making and project action is paramount for the community to continue successfully. In addition, the community desires a Town government that is fiscally responsible now and into the future.

### ***Safe Community***

Jamestown envisions itself as a safe and self-sufficient community. To continue to be resilient and self-reliant, it is important for the community to continually improve emergency preparedness and response approaches as well as to mitigate the severity of future fires and floods.



### ***Supportive Community Services***

Neighborliness and strengthening the sense of community in the greater Jamestown area are strong values in Jamestown. While people have always helped each other out, there is still a critical need to provide support to vulnerable populations, particularly the elderly and homebound. Since the Town lacks many supportive services available in larger communities, the community itself aims to fill some of the service gaps.

### ***Getting Around Town***

While Jamestown is small, walkable, and rural in character, its primary transportation artery is a highly travelled County Road that connects to a National Scenic Byway. The community desires appropriately scaled solutions to longstanding conflicts around pedestrian, cyclist and automobile safety and circulation as well as improving mobility for all in and around town.

### ***Living With Nature***

Residents live in Jamestown largely for its beautiful setting and access to nature. Living harmoniously with nature is important to continue these aspects. Jamestown envisions a community that acts as a good steward of the region's ecosystem; one that lives with nature and not in conflict with it.

### ***Land Use and Housing***

Townpeople have expressed the desire to retain the community character as it is today: a unique mountain town with residential properties, necessary facilities to support those residences, and enough activity to support the Merc. The community also recognizes the need to provide new opportunities and affordable housing options to allow for a diverse population that includes families that will support the continuance of the Jamestown Elementary School. Developing community capacity for addressing planning related issues will help ensure a balance between the two goals.

### ***Vibrant Community Assets***

A vibrant community through arts, culture, recreation and history is the Jamestown tradition and identity. The community has a rich music and arts community and values the town facilities - such as Elysian Park and the Town Square - that provide a presentation ground where the entire community can participate. Ensuring community assets remain robust and engaging is vital for the community as it evolves over time.



Figure 3-2: Jamestown community quilt

## Value and Vision Statements of the Land Use and Housing Study

- Maintain the past rate of growth and the existing housing typology in the community, which is single-family detached structures with allowances for accessory dwelling units.
- Manage growth consistent with maintaining the mountain character of Jamestown.
- Keep Jamestown Elementary School open.
- Develop in ways that improves the Town's safety and resiliency against natural hazards.
- Accommodate new growth in a way that maintains the Town's fiscal health.
- Honor the Town's heritage and culture.
- Bolster the Town's financial health and support ways of identifying new sources of revenue (property taxes, alternative revenue sources, increased housing, etc.).
- Improve the safety and sustainability of the Town.
- Provide for aging in place, a mix of ages, and a mix of incomes.

## Value and Vision Statements of the 1981 Comprehensive Plan

- Maintain small town character
- Limit development to central area (water service area)
- Guide development by Town's ability to provide services
- Add opportunity for commercial growth
- Provide for moderate amount of growth
- Assure a pleasant, healthy, and safe environment

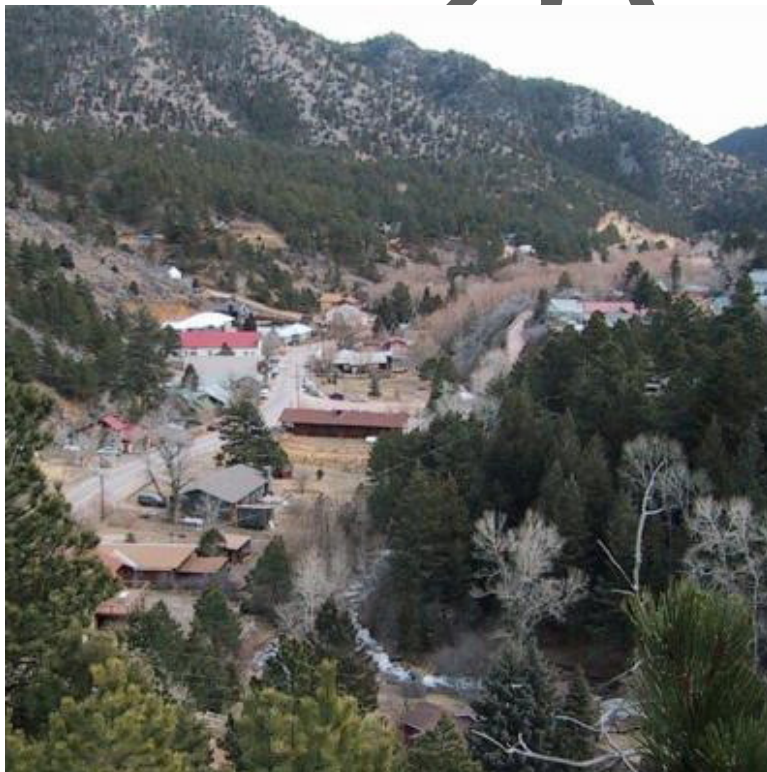


Figure 3-3: Jamestown from the air