

# 7 Chapter 7

## Facilities and Services



Figure 7-1: Town of Jamestown Town Hall

Jamestown seeks to foster a sense of community in the Jamestown area, including maintaining a child-friendly town, providing support and services for vulnerable populations, including seniors, and maintaining local community institutions including the Jamestown Elementary School, the Jamestown Post Office, the Jamestown Community Church and the Jamestown Mercantile.

Maintaining local community facilities and services supports the overall community wellbeing and fosters a more supportive, diverse and tolerant community in and around Jamestown. Local institutions and resources support youth education and strong families and strengthens the sense of community in the greater Jamestown area.

### **Community Facilities and Services**

The Town's facilities include:

- The Town Hall, which houses the town library and Town Clerk's office
- The Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department Fire Hall
- The temporary fire hall
- The Jamestown Cemetery
- Elysian Park
- Town Square.

The Town also has several properties<sup>1</sup> that can be potentially used for passive recreation purposes. Figure 7-2 lists the properties and the associated acquisition program. These properties are a result of two separate federally funded buyout programs to remove development from floodplain areas after the 2013 flood. These particular open space parcels are limited on uses and development that can take place but can provide opportunities for creek access and passive recreation. A community garden and a memorial area are two public amenities planned for three of the open space lots. A few other town-owned properties (not acquired through purchase programs, such as the one at the south end of Ward Street) may also be used for passive recreation purposes where terrain allows.

Town facilities are currently in good condition. The Town Hall was renovated and an addition added in 2010 but, as of 2017, the floors need renovation. A new fire station was built and the Town Square was redeveloped after the 2013 flood event. Volunteers are responsible for the maintenance of town facilities, including park land and open space properties. Discussions on how to improve the temporary fire hall have taken place. Improvements to the aesthetics of the water treatment can be made with landscaping, replacement of weathered materials, maintaining the exterior paint and screening the generator.

Additional facilities (not Town-owned or operated) existing in Jamestown include the Jamestown Elementary School, Jamestown Community Church, and the Jamestown Post Office. In continuous operation since 1906, the Jamestown Mercantile, or Merc, is the only restaurant in town and acts as the community’s primary social gathering place. Nearby are the Balarat Outdoor Education Center and Cal-Wood Education Center. Although these are not Town-owned facilities, the community recognizes the great importance of each.

| Acquisition Program   | Properties   |
|---|--|
| FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)                       | 21 Ward, 59 Ward, 34 Main, 145/153 Main, 167 Main, 146 Andersen Hill |
| HUD Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) | 134 Andersen Hill, 150 Main, 36 Ward*                                |

\* Purchased through Boulder County program

Figure 7-2 Acquisition programs and properties

## Community Services

The Town Clerk provides administration services for the community and the Town Board of Trustees provides local governance. Jamestown also supports the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department (JVFD) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Boulder County provides some police services, via the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office, as well as animal control services. Other services, including solid waste management and recycling, are provided by independent, private entities. Discussion on utilities such as water, waste water treatment, cable, phone and internet

<sup>1</sup> Nine (two from a single property owner) properties were purchased by Jamestown through federally funded programs to remove development from hazard areas; however only six of them are available for passive recreation purposes due to terrain. One additional property was purchased through Boulder County’s program and will be transferred to Jamestown after closing. Another potential purchase is pending final decision.

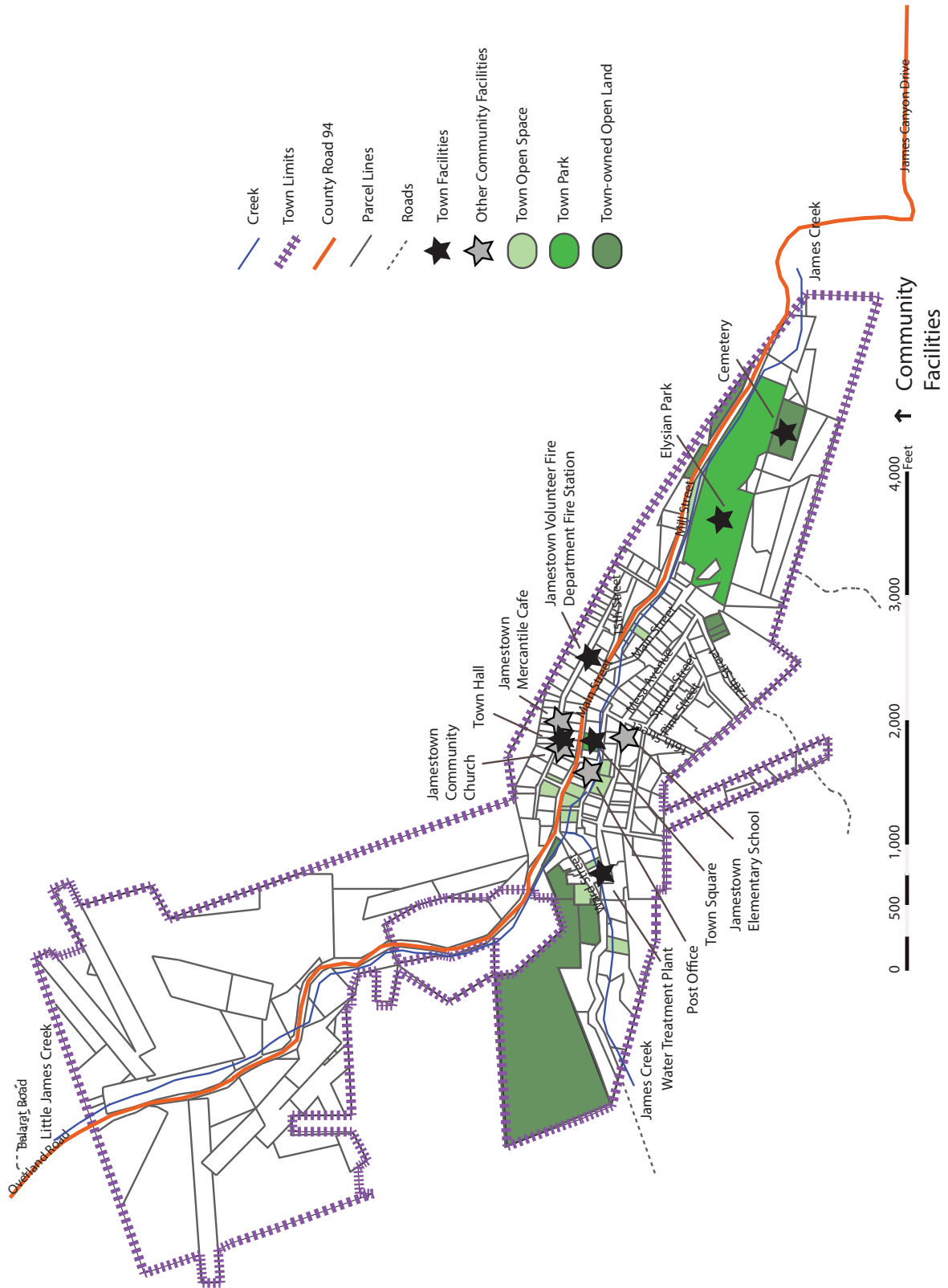


Figure 7-3: Jamestown Area Facilities



Figure 7-4: Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department Fire Station

can be found in Chapter 6 Utilities of this plan. Snow removal (except for snow removal service performed by Boulder County along County Road 94) is a service paid for and performed by volunteers. More discussion on snow removal can be found in Chapter 5 Circulation of this plan.

## **Tourism**

In regard to community attractions for tourism, Jamestown has a history of mining that is attractive to visitors to the area. Visiting the Blue Jay mine is an easy hike and the Town Hall displays memorabilia from the mining days. Jamestown is on a popular cycling route and is located en route between Highway 36 and the Peak to Peak Highway. The Jamestown Mercantile is a popular destination for cyclists and those traveling through town. Although there are no hotels immediately in Jamestown, there are a few vacation rental opportunities within town limits that can accommodate some visitors.

## **Facility and Services Issues**

### ***Providing Services***

Jamestown has a relatively unique situation for providing services and facilities to the community. The lack of staff and fiscal reserves challenges the ability to provide services and facilities that are typically found in other communities. In turn, the community has acknowledged the need for residents to step up and fill in some of the service gaps.

Due to the surrounding terrain, susceptibility to natural hazards, and distance from area services, the community is aware of the importance of sustaining high-quality and fiscally responsible emergency services as provided by the JVFD and EMS. In addition to the direct fire protection and emergency medical services, continued communications during an emergency is a highly valued service that both residents and the Town can provide for the community.

The majority of facility maintenance is done by established committees such as the Cemetery Committee, Parks Committee, Town Hall Maintenance Committee, JVFD, along with other community volunteers.

Governance is provided by the Town Board of Trustees. With the need to keep the community engaged and proactive on maintaining community facilities and providing community services, a cooperative and inclusive Board is needed to sustain a culture of active informed participation by community members.

Pertaining to the availability of services, 67% of the *2015 Housing Survey* respondents indicated satisfaction; 57% were satisfied with the cost of services. With respect to fire and EMS, 92% of the *Housing Survey* respondents indicated that they were satisfied with those services. 71% of the *Housing Survey* respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the parks and recreation offered.

### ***Addressing Service Gaps***

With the challenge of providing services without staff or funds, leveraging existing regional services such as the County's Area Agency on Aging, the Emergency Family Assistance Association, Via Mobility, among others, is essential. Locally, community members have established an Aging Well in Community group to support vulnerable populations such as the elderly and homebound.

In addition to regional services, the community is recognizing the need to embrace other area mountain communities to strengthen services and increase overall resiliency among communities. The InterMountain Alliance, a forum for Boulder County mountain communities to assist each other in preparing for disaster and planning for the future, is an example of such an agency geared toward increasing the area's overall safety.

Due to the lack of funding, the Town could not continue to support recycling services for community members. As expressed in the *Jamestown Area Long Term Recovery Plan*, community members value recycling as a means to care for the environment. The Town has been looking at ways to re-establish a regular recycling schedule for community members. Until then, special event days have been conducted to supply the service when funds are made available.

### ***Funding Services and Facilities***

During the Long Term Recovery Plan process, the community expressed the need to make cost-effective decisions in regard to facilities and services. Alternative funding sources could also be pursued such as: user fees; special assessment districts; and federal, state, and county matching fund programs. Town improvements can also be made by using the volunteer resources within Jamestown. In many cases, large funds are not required to make facility improvements.

Jamestown's ability to provide community facilities and services is directly related to the strength of the local tax base. Money generated from property tax enables the Town to upgrade or add community facilities. Future growth in Jamestown would have an immediate effect on the Town's fiscal capacity by increasing the tax base as well as increasing the demand for more services. Over time the tax base may be unable to maintain the level of revenue needed to support increasing capital improvement and operational costs. Jamestown should weigh the impacts of new growth over the short run and long run to avoid the problem of an expanding service demand and limited tax base.

The Town's annual budget includes line items for the JVFD, EMS, and cemetery maintenance. Funds for parks maintenance come from the annual collection of the Colorado Lottery Conservation Trust Fund. Additional funding for parks, JVFD, and EMS comes from impact fees collected at the time of building permit if and when new floor area is proposed within town.

The Town does not have an official Capital Improvements Program. To maintain the new fire station and other community facility improvements over time, a capital improvements plan is a tool to ensure that these assets are properly maintained over time to avoid an expensive and/or dire fix.

## **Current Regulations and Programs**

The Town has the following ordinances, programs, and committees that pertain to Town facilities and services:

The Town has a **Parks Committee** and a **Cemetery Committee**, which each ensures maintenance of those facilities. The Town also has a **Recycling Committee** that works on various ways to offer the service for the community.

In 2016, an **Aging Well in Community** group was established by residents. The group welcomes interested individuals of all ages in the greater Jamestown area. The group is also looking into building ties with other mountain communities, like Gold Hill, to increase its efforts and build resiliency among the communities. The program is the result of an identified and implemented project from the *Jamestown Area Long Term Recovery Plan*.

The **2015 Jamestown Area Long Term Recovery Plan** includes more detail on strategies to promote a healthy local government and civic culture, to ensure a safe community, and to sustain supportive community services.

**Ordinance 1, Series 2012 Growth Impact Fee** – The Town adopted a Growth Impact Fee in 2012 for the purposes of offsetting impacts related to the growth in population and housing to town parks, JVFD, and EMS. The ordinance establishes a fee to apply to new residential and non-residential development and details the distribution of that fee among the four areas of concern including the maintenance of facilities.

In 2015, a **Financial Sustainability Grant** was used to create a comprehensive list of all Town capital assets, a detailed analysis of future replacement costs, and an array of budget considerations.

In 2016, Boulder County awarded a **Sustainability Grant** to the Town to apply to constructing the community gardens project.

Also in 2016, the **Jamestown BoCo Strong Resiliency Group**, teamed with the AirLink Amateur Radio Group, received a grant from Foothills United Way to strengthen

and enhance the essential ham radio communication network for mountain communities and also to increase neighborhood communication networks within Jamestown.

## Facilities and Services Policies

1. The Town will strive to foster a sense of community, community culture, and quality of life for all citizens, and to enable all persons to share in all elements of living in the community and have the opportunity to participate effectively. Jamestown will continue to foster informed investment and participation by residents in the governance of the Town.
2. Jamestown will continue to provide high-quality emergency services, while increasing community participation in emergency preparedness. The Town will continue to:
  - Foster coordination and build partnerships with the school, community groups and organizations, safety providers, the private sector, and the community with a goal of providing a coordinated approach to enhancing community safety.
  - Promote strong partnerships with other governments and regional organizations to ensure that Jamestown is involved in decisions, plans, and programs that could affect the Town's ability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, or recover from natural and man-made disasters and other unexpected events.
3. The Town will strive to meet the needs of all residents by taking advantage of existing local, county, state, and federal resources, including initiating and maintaining partnerships with existing agencies and groups.
4. The present level of expenditures for facilities and services should be maintained as much as possible. Improvement of facilities and services should be made through self-help, low cost efforts whenever possible. The Town will support community-based committees and programs to address community service gaps and facility maintenance needs in order to reduce the need to expand the tax base for these areas.



Figure 7-5: Jamestown Post Office

5. The Town will consider fiscal responsibility and awareness of long-term realities into all plans and programs. Jamestown will evaluate the short-term and long-term effects of an expanded tax base due to new growth and the demands for facilities and services generated by this growth. Jamestown should balance the tax revenues with its capital improvement and operational costs.

## **Proposed Facilities and Services Programs**

1. The Town should continue to implement the *Long Term Recovery Plan* strategies with regard to community services including the following:
  - Prepare a resident resource guide on area services, local businesses, and contact information; awareness of hazards; and general information in regard to living in the mountains.
  - Update the Town's emergency management plan.
  - Train community preparedness groups.
  - Establish an auxiliary to provide support services to the JVFD and EMS volunteers.
  - Obtain generators for key town facilities – particularly Town Hall, the fire station, and the Merc.
  - Create a volunteer communications assistant to provide communications at all times, including during disasters.
  - Promote opportunities for intergenerational interaction and learning that strengthen connection among residents of all ages, including social, civic, educational, recreational, and cultural activities.
  - Continue efforts to contract with a recycling business or person to provide once-a-month recycling pick-up; and retain a space in town, close to a composting area, for the monthly pickup.
  - Ensure the continuance of the Jamestown library.
2. The Town should continue to implement the *Long Term Recovery Plan* strategies with regard to collaborating with regional partners to enhance community resilience in the following ways:
  - Partner with and/or collaborate with Boulder County and other organizations to ensure the Town has an updated Emergency Operations Plan that outlines the roles and responsibilities of Town and partner entities during large-scale disasters and emergencies.
  - Engage the community in disaster response and preparedness planning and promote civic engagement and volunteerism.
  - Support ongoing coordination and partnerships with outside agencies that provide safety services.
  - Work with other mountain towns that have similar challenges and needs to enable sharing solutions and resources to expand the community, thus increasing resilience and sense of safety in the face of disruptions and disasters.
  - Continue planning the expansion of the Mountain Emergency Radio Network (MERN) to include Jamestown coverage.





Figure 7-6: One of the Town's open space properties along Main Street

3. Strive to ensure social, health, and human services are accessible to and contribute to the well-being of all residents:
  - Actively collaborate with local and regional providers about health and human services needs and resources to determine the most efficient and effective methods for delivering and improving access to these services.
  - Work with the Boulder Valley School District to ensure continued existence of the Jamestown Elementary School.
  - Foster close coordination among public, private, and nonprofit agencies that provide health and human services and participate in appropriate regional human services partnerships to determine more efficient and effective methods for delivering human services to Jamestown's residents.
  - Promote volunteerism by all ages to meet the needs of any "vulnerable" residents, including the range of ages, residents with short-term physical needs, and residents with long-term physical needs.
4. The Town should work with the community to promote community-based Aging Well in Community efforts. To do this, the Town will encourage the community to:
  - Periodically identify needs and help meet them through local help and through existing relevant agencies.
  - Promote social activities for seniors to maintain their connections and avoid isolation.
  - Assist to arrange support for household chores and home / yard maintenance.
5. The Town should continue its efforts to provide proper maintenance of community facilities and properties in the following ways:
  - Continue to actively recruit community members to participate in the various facility maintenance committees.
  - Evaluate and determine appropriate maintenance approaches for the Town's open space properties and any amenities on those properties.
  - Continue to engage and train community volunteers to assist with special projects and maintenance of parks, trails, greenways, and open space.

- Pursue grants and partnerships with local, state, and national organizations to leverage staff time and available resources.
  - Develop a Capital Improvements Program or reserve fund to plan for and address future maintenance and replacement needs.
  - Consider and apply aesthetic improvements to the exterior of the water treatment plant.
6. The Town should continuously seek ways to improve the accessibility of Town government by:
- Getting information to the community about issues the Town is facing, and explore opportunities to supplement public information methods the Town is currently using to serve Jamestown residents better.
  - Meeting the provisions of the Colorado Open Meetings Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
  - Ensuring Town policies and regulations and other information developed by and for the Town are communicated in a manner that is clear and easy to understand.
7. The Town intends to provide a welcoming environment and to encourage all residents to participate in Town government in the following ways:
- Encourage residents to serve on committees that advise the Board of Trustees on matters important to the Town while striving to achieve representation that is reflective of the population as a whole.
  - Periodically review the purposes and roles of the Town’s committees to ensure that they continue to benefit the Town and effectively use residents’ time and energy.
  - Seek the involvement of diverse groups of residents on community issues and in Town-sponsored activities.
  - Develop and administer strategies that actively involve neighborhood groups, business organizations, civic organizations, and residents in the Town decision-making process.
  - Expand opportunities for all residents to have a voice in the community, and monitor and acknowledge the desires, needs, and suggestions of all community members.

| <b>Topic Cross Reference</b>   |  |
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| <b>Because many of the topics in the comprehensive plan are inter-related, particularly to land use, below is a chart that conveys where additional related topics may be found.</b> |  |
| <i>Chapter</i>   | <i>For more information on:</i>                                  |
| Environment  | Natural hazards (and impacts on development), living with nature |
| Circulation  | Roads, access and getting around town                            |
| Utilities  | Town water service and on-site wastewater treatment              |
| Land Use   | Existing land use and predicted future land use                  |
| External Factors   | Relationships with Boulder County and the U.S. Forest Service    |