

Chapter 4: ACTION PLAN

Both Adams County and Brighton are committed to the implementation of the District Plan. In order to cultivate a local food system, preserve prime agricultural lands in the District Area, and increase the likelihood of agritourism development, the following are recommended, but not limited to, appropriate next steps in the process:

1. Adams County and Brighton should commit to annually and jointly applying for a minimum of \$1M of competitive Adams County Open Space Grant Funds, and applying 250K each of their Open Space share-back funding for preserving agricultural lands within the District. Grant funds are derived from a combination of existing Open Space sales tax, matching GOCO grant funds, and other funding sources which may be available.¹
2. Adams County and Brighton will develop an evaluation matrix² for agricultural land preservation opportunities to include:
 - Prioritize lands that inherently help maintain agricultural operations and wildlife habitat.
 - Define goals around water resources to sustain agricultural production and address future municipal need.
 - Focus on designated prime agricultural lands that are contiguous to optimize farming efficiencies.
 - Where possible, focus on existing view sheds.
 - Assess existing and future transportation constraints.
3. Explore the creation a revolving fund to ensure a portion of property tax funds from the District area are allocated for reinvestment and future land acquisition of strategically located land that would enhance agricultural preservation and help to define the character of development as outlined in this plan. Seek out other funding opportunities and financing to implement and sustain the District Plan's recommendations.
4. Adams County and Brighton should jointly enhance the Agricultural Land Preservation Subcommittee and appoint key members.
5. As part of the plan, a new, full-time equivalent employee dedicated to local food system programming and marketing efforts would be beneficial. This position could be funded equally by Adams County and Brighton for a minimum of two years, with evaluation thereafter, with the goal of the position to be self-sustaining via grant funds thereafter.
6. Contemplate the release of a request for proposals to meet the objectives of the District Plan by the development community.
7. Amend Adams County and City of Brighton regulations and standards to help implement the Local District Plan in regards to transfer of development rights (TDR), and other zoning and design related amendments.
8. Adams County and the City of Brighton will explore other opportunities to work together to implement the District Plan's strategies, actions and recommendations.
9. Pursue opportunities in which historic preservation grants and tax credits might help to rehabilitate historic farm properties.

¹ Actual grant funding request may vary year over year depending upon available lands for fee-simple acquisition in terms of available acreages. Grant applications will be evaluated annually by the Open Space Board and the Board of County Commissioners, and others. All land purchases are subject to annual appropriation procedures.

² See discussion of additional, potential land conservation criteria in Chapter 3 of the Plan.

Goal	Category	Tactic	Timeline	Lead	Partners	Funding
<p>Create a comprehensive vision/mission for the future of agriculture in The District Area and the City of Brighton</p>	Organizational Structure Recommendation	Adams County and City of Brighton to create an IGA: identify areas of expertise needed in order to meet the requirements needed for the advisory committee as outlined in The District plan. This may include recruiting specific individuals to the Agricultural Land Preservation Committee and/or creating a mentoring program with another open space program that has developed an effective agriculture preservation program.	Completed within 9 months of plan adoption	Adams County, City of Brighton, Open Space Departments	Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	Adams County, City of Brighton
	Organizational Structure Recommendation	Develop a matrix of guiding principles which will guide the actions of the governing body(ies) who will oversee agricultural preservation efforts.	Completed within 9 months of plan adoption	Adams County, City of Brighton	Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	Adams County, City of Brighton, Grants
	Land Preservation	Define goals around maintaining soil health and quality as part of an agricultural land preservation management strategy.	Ongoing	Adams County, City of Brighton	Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee, Open Space mentor program with another city or county	
	Land Preservation	Define goals around water resources for agricultural purposes.	Ongoing	Adams County, City of Brighton	Agriculture Preservation Subcommittee, Open Space mentor program with another city or county	
	Policy Recommendations	Evaluate Land Development Code to further explore Transfer of Development Rights and/or improve Cluster Standards to align with market and recommendations of the District Plan and Be Brighton. Key outcomes include reflecting market conditions, identifying receiving areas within the Brighton GMA, establishing maximum densities in receiving areas, applicability to properties under 160 acres, and outlining code provisions such as the relationship of TDR and Clustering to Brighton PUD standards.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Adams County, City of Brighton	TDR Consultant	Adams County, City of Brighton
	Policy Recommendations	Develop a City zoning overlay or design guidelines to address the performance criteria in this chapter. Apply the overlay to properties that could potentially apply for annexation, as shown on the Development Options Map.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Adams County, City of Brighton		Adams County, City of Brighton

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(cont.) Create a comprehensive vision/mission for the future of agriculture in The District Area and the City of Brighton	Capital Projects/ Investment	Periodically review area plans for future trails as lands are placed into conservation within the District Area to develop the proper connectivity and access to help support the vision of the District Plan.	Ongoing	Adams County, City of Brighton		Adams County, City of Brighton
	Capital Projects/ Investment	Periodically review City of Brighton and Adams County transportation plans as lands are placed into conservation within the District area to develop the proper road improvement/maintenance strategy for the area as it develops	Ongoing	Adams County, City of Brighton		Adams County, City of Brighton, Grants
Increase community awareness, education and engagement	Marketing	Create a marketing campaign utilizing “It all grows in Brighton” or newly identified Local Foods campaign such as “Eat Five, Buy Five.”	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Brighton Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, Adams County Economic Development	Lodging Tax
	Marketing	Create a local and regional public relations plan to promote the efforts of the District plan including agricultural preservation, local farms and local food.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	County/City PIO Departments	Adams County, City of Brighton
	Education	Facilitate a local foods workshop with community members (schools, small businesses, CSU Extension, Tri County Health, etc.) to brainstorm and outline individual goals and programs that will address food access, health, wellness and education. Next steps: 1. Utilize existing resources for facilitating a local foods workshop: EPA’s Smart Growth Program- Local Foods Local Places. 2. Engage community members and key stakeholders 3. Outline a plan with tactics, funding requirements and time line.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Adams County, City of Brighton	

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Increase community awareness, education and engagement	Health & Wellness	Engage the local non-profit, Brighton Shares the Harvest and Tri-County Health to develop a program focused on encouraging farm markets to accept SNAP and possible additional WIC benefits. Initial steps would include: 1. Engaging both groups to identify resources and approach. 2. Outline next steps and financial requirements. 3. Locate funding sources through grants and other funding opportunities.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Tri County Health/ Brighton Shares the Harvest	
	Marketing	Create more community events around local foods (Example: Farmers market promotion program, building on existing efforts such as Market Day)	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Adams County, City of Brighton	USDA
		Create incentives to incorporate more local food within existing meal programs for seniors. Initial steps: 1. Engage Eagle View Adult Center and Tri County Health to explore existing efforts and opportunities. 2. Identify 2-3 programs that could be implemented over the next 12 months. 3. Identify funding requirements and sources of funding. 4. Outline next steps.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	City of Brighton/Tri County Health/Eagle View Adult Center	
	Marketing	Expand marketing capacity for locally- and regionally-grown products. This could include working with Brighton Business Development project 'It all grows in Brighton', identifying possible incentive programs for businesses locally and facilitating connections with regional buyers.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	City of Brighton & Adams County Business Development/Local Producers	USDA Value Added Producer Grants
	Health & Wellness	Increase school nutrition programming within existing school system. Initial activities would include: 1. Bringing together Adams 12 and District 27J's nutrition coordinators to explore current initiatives around nutrition education and where opportunities exist. 2. Work with Tri-County Health, USDA and CO Farm to School to identify programs that have been effective in other districts and would be applicable. 3. Incorporate key programs into existing strategic plans for each district.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Brighton School District 27J Colorado Farm to School, Tri County Health	USDA FTS Grant Programs

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<p>(cont.)</p> <p>Increase community awareness education and engagement</p>	Health & Wellness	<p>Implement on site school gardens within the 27J school district. Initial steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine Adams 12's existing school garden policies and procedures. 2. Identify where a similar programs could be adopted for District 27J. 3. Identify and engage strategic partnerships such as Denver Urban Gardens, Slow Food and The Kitchen Community. 	Short Term (1-2 years)	Brighton School District 27J/ Adams 12	Denver Urban Gardens-DUG Adams 12	DUG/ Whole kids Foundation School Gardens Grant Program
	Health & Wellness	<p>Explore the opportunity to begin a farm to school program for Adams 12 and District 27J to incorporate more local product in schools.</p>	Near Term (2-4 years)	Brighton School District 27J/ Adams 12	Colorado Farm to School-Nutrition Services	USDA FTS Grants
	Health & Wellness	<p>Incorporate salad bars into the school throughout the Brighton 27J School District (Program: Let's move salad bars to schools) -Initial steps would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with Adams 12 and District 27J to identify schools that would be a good fit for this program. 2. Apply for the program 3. Future steps could include identifying existing school gardens that could be incorporated into the program and/or encourage existing distributors to focus on procuring local products. 	Near Term (2-4 years)	Brighton School District 27J/ Adams 13	Colorado Farm to School-Nutrition Services	HUSSC-Healthier US School Challenge
	Capital Projects/ Investment	<p>Once an agritourism direction has been established, focus on highway and street signage promoting agritourism, farmer markets.</p>	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Colorado Tourism: Heritage and Agritourism/ CDOT/Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	

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Identify new opportunities for production and food related businesses	Land Preservation	Adams County and City of Brighton to create RFP(s)/RFQ(s) to seek out strategic partnerships that align with the vision for The District. The partnerships could be developers with a consistent vision and desire for agricultural preservation or food related co-op model that focuses on production and distribution.	Near Term (2-4 years)	Adams County, City of Brighton	Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee,	
	Capital Projects/ Investment	Based on the support system recommendations for local farms outlined in the agricultural market study, as lands are preserved and farm programs take hold explore creating a capital improvement plan for local foods infrastructure, such as farmers markets, food processing facilities and opportunities to re purpose historical sites for seasonal housing and distribution food center. Utilize Brighton's Attainable Housing Matrix to explore ways to incentivize future affordable housing projects.	Long Term (5+ years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Adams County, City of Brighton	
	Business Development	Network with existing local firms to explore the possibility of establishing or expanding a local and regional food business enterprise. Next steps: 1. Outline a vision for a local/regional food business enterprise. 2. Identifying what additional information may be needed to move forward such as market research, feasibility studies, and business planning. 3. Construct a business plan with next steps	Ongoing	Local Food Systems FTE	Adams County, City of Brighton	LFPP Planning Grants USDA
	Business Development	Identify and cultivate alternative labor forces that may be available by utilizing local sources such as juvenile detention inmates, youth crop workers and other non-traditional labor types.	Near Term (2-4 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Adams County, City of Brighton, Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	
	Education	Explore and implement with the help of local experts and Universities, innovative farm techniques-organic agriculture research through educational programs for organic growing and research partnerships.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Adams County, City of Brighton, Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	Adams County CSU Extension, Open Space mentor program with another city/county	Innovations in Agriculture
	Business Development	Encourage (through local conferences and networking) collaborative ventures among farmers and agriculture related businesses to reduce expenses and secure markets.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Brighton Business Development, Chamber of Commerce	USDA Grant: RDBCP-09-RBEG-ARRA-

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<p>Promote the highest and best use of the land and environmentally conscious practices</p>	Land Use	Work with CWCB to develop water conservation policies and incentives for agricultural lands that align with the conservation action items outlined in section 6.34 of the 2015 Colorado Water Plan.	Near Term (2-4 years)	Adams County, City of Brighton, Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee		
	Land Preservation	Identify possible land lease incentives for soil building farming practices, sustainable irrigation practices, and organic farming practices.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	Adams County, City of Brighton, CSU Extension, Open Space mentor program with another city or county	
	Land Preservation	Create incentives for landowners to implement conservation easements.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	Preservation Subcommittee City of Brighton, Adams County, Land Trusts, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, Open Space mentor program with another city or county	USDA
	Capital Projects/ Investment	Encourage farmers and ranchers in planning and implementing conservation practices that improve the natural resources (e.g. soil, water, wildlife) on their agricultural land. For example, the installation of seasonal high tunnels (i.e., hoop houses) to extend a producer's growing season while conserving resources.	Long Term (5+ years)	Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee	Adams County, City of Brighton	USDA

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Create strong foundational food related educational support programs	Education	Identify and implement programs to address food safety education needs in production and consumer markets. Specifically targeting food safety and safe handling techniques for consumers, distributors and producers.	Short Term (1-2 years)	Local Food Systems FTE	Adams County, City of Brighton, Agricultural Preservation Subcommittee, CSU Extension	
	Education	Incubator program cultivating new farmers through farmer, business education and land access (i.e. farmer training program)	Ongoing	Local Food Systems FTE	CSU Adams County Extension/Colorado Heritage Agritourism (CHAP Program). Incorporate existing farmers who would like to participate in mentorship programs	Beginning Farmer Program USDA