



## **City of Cañon City**

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### **Media Release**

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### **APA AWARD**

The City of Cañon City is thrilled to announce that the City has been awarded a 2022 American Planning Association (APA) Colorado Merit Award in the category of General Planning Project from the APA Colorado Awards Committee and APA Colorado Board for our "Picture Cañon City 2040 - A Pathway To The Future" Comprehensive Plan and Unified Development Code Update Project. This award was presented to our City Planner, Patrick Mulready, on Thursday, September 29, 2022 during the Colorado Planning Conference Awards Ceremony. Eleven merit awards were given out of twenty-three submissions to this category. This is the first time the City of Cañon City has been professionally recognized for a City Planning achievement, which makes this award even more memorable, given that it coincides with the City's Sesquicentennial Anniversary.

In the fall of 2019, Cañon City was awarded a grant by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs in the amount of \$150,000 to update the City's Comprehensive Plan for the first time since 2001. The City initiated a competitive bid process in February 2020, to find a consultant to help the City with this incredible effort, and out of the eight submitted proposals, selected the firm of Houseal Lavigne to help us with the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan. An aggressive public outreach campaign was employed to inform the shape of both the Comprehensive Plan and the new Unified Development Code (UDC). This included surveys, interviews, open houses, and a Design Charette workshop with real-time feedback from those attending in person or virtually.

Jointly overseeing the effort was the City's Planning Commission and City Council. By the end of calendar year 2020, not only had the effort amassed enormous amounts of public comment and feedback, it also engaged in an extensive existing conditions analysis. The Comprehensive Plan was formally adopted on June 21, 2021; and the new UDC was formally adopted on August 16, 2021 with an effective date of September 01, 2021, thus completing the project in only a year from commencement of the work. The Comprehensive Plan and UDC was updated in an effort to make Cañon City's land development processes more user-friendly and workable.