

Rapid Health Impact Assessment

East Greeley and Weld County Study Area

Greeley & Weld County, Colorado

May 2008



Acknowledgements

The Rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the East Greeley and Weld County Study Area was done in cooperation with:

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Sources of Information for the Rapid Health Impact Assessment

Health impact assessments rely on quantitative evidence and on qualitative information that may include opinions and expectations of a variety of stakeholders ranging from elected officials to community members. In conducting this rapid HIA, Weld County Department of Public Health & Environment (WCDPHE) used scientific literature and best professional practices, secondary data, as well as input from key informants with local expertise in planning and public health policy, and from stakeholders through local surveys and community outreach activities, as summarized below.

- East Greeley and Weld County Study Area City/County Community Forums
- East Greeley and Weld County Study Area City/County Area Condition Survey
- East Greeley and Weld County Area City/County Key Stakeholder Interviews
- WCDPHE Community Resident Interviews, 2008
- Weld County 2006 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey
- North Colorado Health Alliance Patient Location Spatial Analysis, 2007
- United States Census Data, 2000
- Colorado Department of Education, 2007

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Introduction

This Rapid Health Impact Assessment is intended to provide an overview of the possible health impacts of the current use of land in the East Greeley and Weld County Study Area (EGWCSA). Primary data and existing data were analyzed to identify the key environmental factors potentially influencing resident's health. Data from several sources including primary and secondary sources were analyzed (see sources of information section). Input from county and city experts as well as community residents were also obtained.

The East Greeley and Weld County Study Area is a 5,708 acre area bordered by Highway 34 on the south, Highway 85 on the west, the South Platte River from its confluence with the Cache la Poudre River on the east, and Colorado Highway 263 and the Greeley/Weld County Airport on the north. Over three-fourths of the study area acreage is in



unincorporated Weld County, with the remaining portion within the municipal limits of the City of Greeley. At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, there were approximately 4,300 residents, over 3,000 primary structures, and over 2,000 land parcels in the area. Currently,

“[Part of] the study area is an important riparian corridor. It is mostly low elevation cottonwood riparian habitat and wetlands.”

***Division of Wildlife Official
(attending stakeholders meeting)***

it is estimated there are over 7,000 residents. The number of structures and land parcels has also increased since 2000, but a rough estimate was not available at the time this report was written. There is a cemetery, a plastics manufacturing company, gravel pit, and shooting range within the county portion of the study area. In the city portion of the study area there

are three recreation areas including a neighborhood park, water park, and sports park, one small convenience store with groceries, one gasoline station, two mobile home parks, a small migrant housing complex, a Boys and Girls Club, one church, and a municipal airport. In the overall study area there are light industrial properties, agricultural lands, agricultural businesses (tree farm) and activities (equestrian and livestock property), rural residential properties and a large riparian corridor with two rivers.

The Connection between Land Use and Health

Health improvement in the 21st century, according to the Institute of Medicine, will require new ways of dealing with environmental health. Today, a healthy environment also means having safe, walkable streets, as well as having access to grocery/food shops, schools, libraries, and parks close to our homes. Access to these resources helps prevent heart disease, hypertension, asthma, bronchitis, stroke, diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, depression, and some cancers. One way for society to ensure that everyone has these essential health resources is to account for public health goals in land use and transportation planning.¹

It makes sense that decisions regarding land use development and planning should be made with the public's health in mind. However, mechanisms for considering them often do not exist. City and county planning agencies often do not have the resources or expertise to assess the health impacts of land use planning. On the other hand, even though many public health professionals are interested in addressing the root causes of poor health and health disparities, most have no experience working in the realm of land use planning.

Health impact assessments (HIA) provide one way to bring health evidence to land use and transportation planning. For example, health evidence provided through an HIA might support environmentally protective and resource-efficient land use strategies. Evidence suggests that resource-efficient land use including active living by design policies and transit-oriented development can contribute to health by increasing walking and bicycling, reducing pollutant emissions, improving traffic safety, and building social networks between governmental agencies. HIA can also facilitate public participation in policy, planning, and decision-making.²

“This is a key hunting area. Hunting is important economically and socially for Weld County. The Mitani Tokuyasu State Wildlife Area (which allows hunting) is in the EGWCSA and [there is a large land owner who leases their property for hunting].”
Division of Wildlife Key Official
(attending stakeholders meeting)

Impetus for the Study

In 2007, the City of Greeley and Weld County received a \$16,000 Colorado Heritage Planning Grant through Great Outdoors Colorado to evaluate the existing conditions and plan for continued use of the area in a coordinated and cooperative manner. The goal of the planning grant is to develop an intergovernmental agreement and possible “toolkit” to help other communities do similar kinds of planning projects.

¹ Frank, L.D., & Engelke, P. (2005). How land use and transportation impact public health: a literature review of the relationship between physical activity and the built form. ACES: active community environments working paper #1. retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/pdf/aces-workingpaper1.pdf>

² Institute of Medicine. (2005). Does the built environment influence physical activity? Examining the Evidence. Transportation research board special report 282 Retrieved from <http://onlinepubs.trb.org/Onlinepubs/sr/sr282.pdf>

Background on the East Greeley and Weld County Study Health Impact Assessment

The purpose of this HIA is to collect and analyze existing data for the City of Greeley and Weld County to help guide and resolve concerns about infrastructure, policy and procedures affecting the East Greeley and Weld County Study Area. In 2003, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE) received a five year federal grant from Health and Human Services and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to promote healthy eating and physical activity to decrease the incidence of obesity, diabetes, asthma, and tobacco use in Weld County. The Steps to a Healthier Weld County grant includes funds to assist communities in Weld County with land use planning and projects related to building healthy community environments to support these goals. The Weld County Health Department has worked collaboratively with the Weld County Planning Department and the City of Greeley for over three years to implement the principals of Active Community Environments in a variety of areas. One of the tools available through the Health Department for identifying and quantifying the “health” of a city is a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). WCDPHE was invited to participate on behalf of the Steps grant to conduct a Rapid Health Impact Assessment of the East Greeley and Weld County Study area. This is the first time a Health Impact Assessment has been used in Weld County.

“One of the biggest health related concerns is safety/insecurity. For example, at night you can’t go out and walk because there are suspicious people all around. For the children there is insecurity also. (If) they wear red colors or blue colors, some other kids might come up and hit them.”

City of Greeley resident



Fence tagging on East 24th Street

Demographic Characteristics of East Greeley Weld Study Area Residents (U.S. Census, 2000)

Based on a review of the demographic characteristics from the 2000 US Census (see map next page) the following information was gleaned about the study area:

- In 2000, the estimated population was 4,281. Currently, about 7,000 people live in the East Greeley study area.³ There has been over a 60% increase in the population since 2000.
- Almost three-fourths of the estimated population (72%) lives in the southwest residential area [1st Ave, East 18th Street, Cherry Ave and East 27th Street]. Fourteen percent live in the central area, 11 percent reside in the northwest portion of the study area and 3 percent live in the eastern portion of the study area (Census Bureau, 2000).
- Based on 2000 Census data, the median age of residents living in the southwest residential area was 25.5 years. The median age of residents living in central, northwest, and eastern portions of the study area was 38.9 years.
- At the time of the 2000 Census, the median income of residents living in the southwest residential area was \$33,214, whereas the median income of residents living in central, northwest, and eastern portions of the study area was \$50,272.



Residents walking in roadway on Weld County portion of Cherry Avenue

³ This estimate is conservative and is based on Census, spatial and county assessor data.

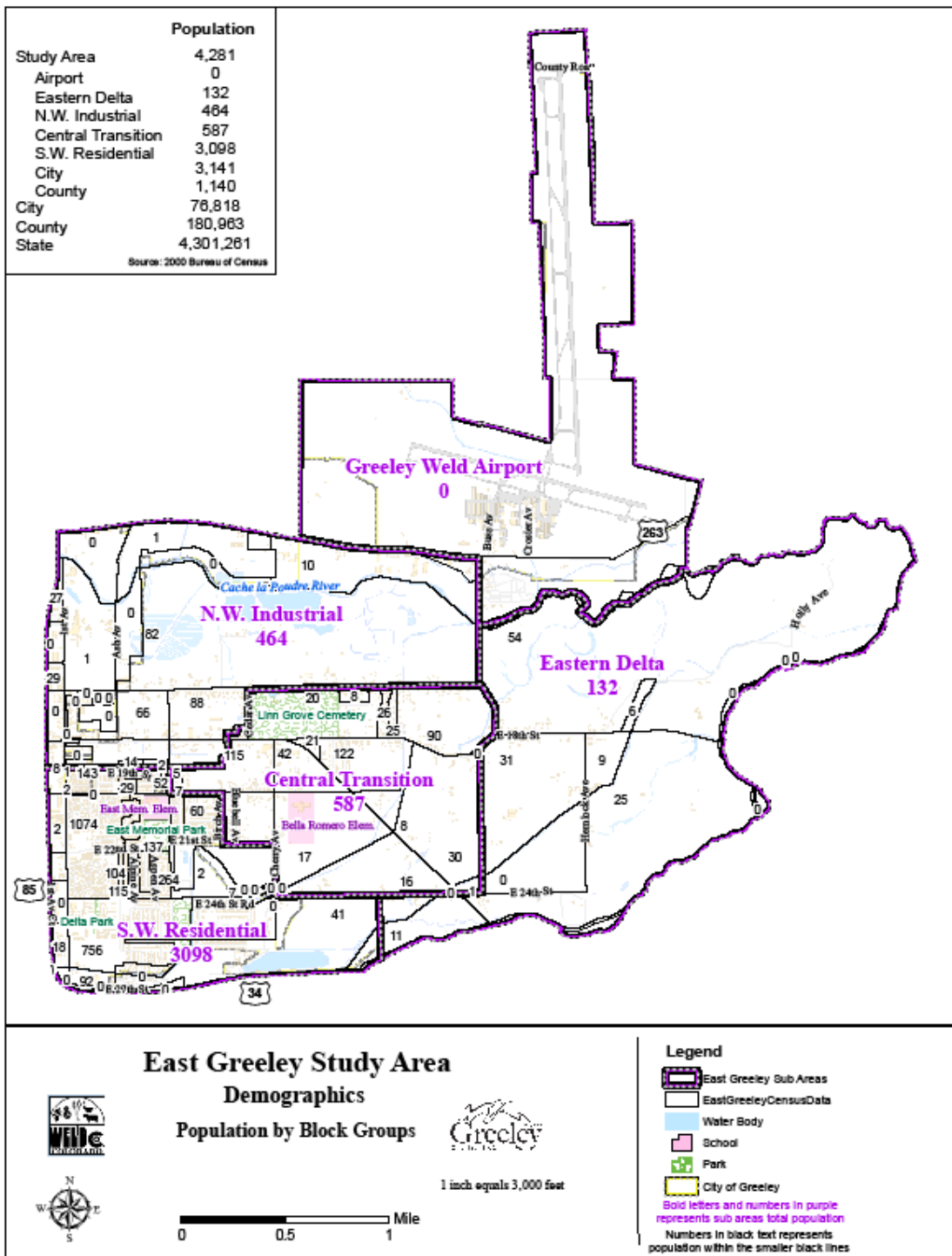


Figure 1. Demographic characteristics of East Greeley and Weld County Study Area residents (U.S. Census, 2000)

Source: City of Greeley Community Development Department - 2008

Groups At-Risk for Adverse Health Outcomes Due to the Environment⁴

Certain populations are known to be more at risk for adverse health-related concerns. Land use decisions can impact these populations in the following areas:

Children – Children get their exercise from walking, running, biking and playing. It should be noted, however, that in general they are at greater risk for injury when engaging in these activities because they are [smaller in stature and therefore] harder to see, they have not learned traffic safety skills, and as preteens and teens, they take more risks. Safe and accessible walking and biking routes and after-school recreation programs can make physical activity possible and help limit “screen” time for kids. In 1999, fewer than 1 in 7 children walked or biked to school. Today, 90 % are driven to school and when they get there, 90% don’t get any physical education. Children are eating more unhealthy foods in larger portions. Children consume high-calorie, low nutrient foods at home, in school, and in restaurants. A healthy diet and [well designed neighborhood with areas for safe] physical activity are directly linked to better academic performance.

Seniors – United States seniors rely on walking for travel and exercise more than any other age group. They are at risk for injury because they move more slowly and have poorer vision and hearing. By 2030, 1 in 5 adults will be over 65. Neighborhoods that are safe to walk, bike, and shop in promote physical activity and improve the quality of life for seniors. Life long residents of a neighborhood help to establish and preserve the sense of place within a community.

People of Low Income – Being of low income is associated with a higher risk of chronic disease and obesity, as well as lower levels of physical activity. Lower-income children suffer more traffic injuries and fatalities than those from higher-income families. In many cases, a low-income neighborhood is not safe for outdoor play, and access to fresh fruits and vegetables is limited. Communities that are more mixed and compact, with safer streets, cleaner air, and more accessible recreational facilities, will provide low-income people the opportunity for routine, moderate physical activity that is safe, convenient, affordable, and practical.

People of Color – Pedestrian injuries and fatality rates for Hispanic and Black people are several times higher than those among White people. The reasons are complex, but it is believed that Hispanic and Blacks are more likely to be pedestrians; the road design is a problem in areas where minority persons walk, and cultural factors such as not being accustomed to high-speed traffic are believed to play a role.

People with Disabilities - There are as many as 49.7 million Americans, or 20 % of the population, with some kind of disability or activity limitation. People with disabilities are at risk for the same chronic health conditions as the general population. People with disabilities are also at risk for additional health conditions that can be attributed to a

⁴ Information for this section was obtained from Tri-County Health Department Health Impact Assessment for Derby Redevelopment Historic Commerce City, Colorado and from <http://www.activelivingbydesign.org/>

primary disability. Many of these secondary conditions can be improved or eliminated with physical exercise. To facilitate physical activity among people with disabilities, the environment must be modified to eliminate barriers. Lack of transportation is one of the most commonly reported barriers to participation in recreation and other types of physical activity. The natural environment can be inherently inaccessible for people with disabilities. Rough and uneven surfaces make it difficult to push a wheelchair, maintain balance, or use other devices to help with mobility.

The East Greeley and Weld County Study Area Community Profile

The next several sections summarize primary and secondary qualitative and quantitative health-related information about people living in the study area. This information can/will help identify a profile of the community that can be used to assess and prioritize potential health impacts of current and future land use that community decision makers may want to consider.

Adults in the East Greeley and Weld County Study Area

Data in this section comes from a secondary analysis of the Weld County Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS). Since 2004, county-level BRFSS data has been collected from a random sample of Weld County adults (one per household) through telephone survey. This BRFSS survey was partially funded by the Steps to a Healthier Weld County program and is an ongoing national data collection program that measures behavioral risk factors in the adult population (18 years of age or older) living in households. A subset of Weld County's 2006 sample was analyzed for this HIA – those people living in the 80631 zip code. This area is bound by 23rd Avenue in the city limits on the west, County Road 50 on the south, County 70 on the north, and County Road 59 on the east (see map in appendix). Although the 80631 zip code area is larger than the study area, it is still representative of the residents who live in the EGWCSA. Information from this analysis can be found in Table 1 and is summarized below:

- Fifty-two percent (52%) of adult residents are between the ages of 18 and 39 years old.
- Forty-seven percent (47%) of adult residents who are living in this area do not have children living at home.
- Fifty-one percent (51%) of the residents are non-Hispanic White and forty-eight percent (48%) are Hispanic or Latino of any race.
- Thirty-four percent (34%) of residents in this area have not graduated from high school; 25 percent have graduated high school; 22 percent have attended a college or technical school but did not graduate from it; and 19 percent have graduated from college.
- Fifty-eight percent (58%) of residents in this area report annual household incomes of less than \$35,000.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of adults residents 18 years or older in zip code 80631 (including East Greeley Weld County Study Area residents)

		Percent
Age group		
	18 to 39 years	52.1
	40 to 64 years	32.9
	65 years or older	15.0
Number of children		
	No Children	47.6
	1	15.0
	2	17.2
	3	13.8
	4	6.4
Race/ethnicity		
	White, non-Hispanic	50.6
	Hispanic or Latino, any race	47.9
	Other race/ethnicity	1.5
Education		
	No HS diploma	34.4
	HS diploma	24.5
	Attended college or technical school	22.4
	Graduated college	18.7
Annual Household Income		
	<\$15,000	19.7
	\$15,000 to \$24,999	23.6
	\$25,000 to \$34,999	14.3
	\$35,000 to \$49,000	17.4
	\$50,000 or more	18.4
	Refused to answer	6.6

Source: Weld County 2006 BRFSS

Adult Health Insurance Status and Utilization of Low Income Health Care Services

In this section additional data from the 2006 Weld County BRFSS and new secondary data from North Colorado Health Alliance add to the profile of people living the EGWCSA. While these data can not be summarized for the EGWCSA exclusively, a review of the adult health insurance status and the utilization of low income health care services in Weld County finds:

- About 63 percent of residents living in the zip code area 80631 report they currently have health insurance. However, only 35 percent of adult residents who are Hispanic or Latino report they currently have health insurance whereas almost 90 percent of non-Hispanic adult residents report they currently have health insurance (BRFSS, 2006).
- The North Colorado Health Alliance (NCHA) is comprised of 13 local health agencies that work together to address a variety of health care issues including ensuring that uninsured and underinsured residents have access to affordable, comprehensive, quality health care. All patients who receive health care at Alliance facilities are either low income or have difficulty making ends meet; therefore qualifying for services on a sliding scale basis. About two-thirds of NCHA patients are very low income (i.e., below 100% of federal poverty level⁵). A recent spatial analysis of North Colorado Health Alliance patient databases revealed that the geographic distribution of patients using NCHA services is uneven. Patient density is highest in three areas of Greeley (see Figure 2). One of the areas with a high density of patients is in the southwest residential area of the East Greeley Weld County Study Area that is bounded by East 20th Street on the north, Highway 34 on the south, Cherry Avenue on the East, and Highway 85 on the west.

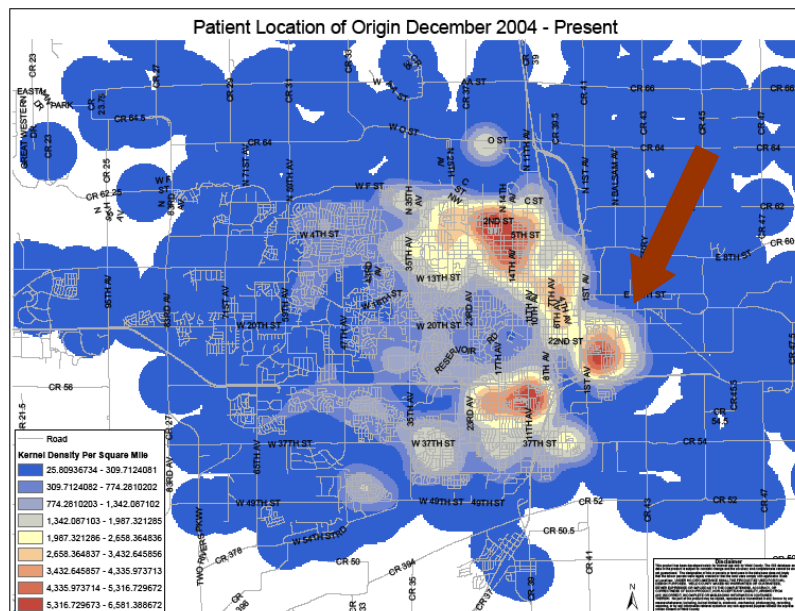


Figure 1. Geographic distribution of NCHA patients served in Greeley

⁵ This term is also known as the poverty guidelines. The **poverty guidelines** are the other version of the federal poverty measure which is calculated annually. In 2006, an annual income of \$9,800 for an individual and \$20,000 for a family of four were potentially eligible for government programs for low income individuals.

Children in the East Greeley and Weld County Study Area

Data from Colorado Department of Education for the children attending the two elementary schools in the Study Area are summarized in Table 2. Information about middle school and high school aged youth for this area was not available at the time of this report.

Table 2. Demographic characteristics of elementary school students, Fall 2007

	East Memorial	Bella Romero
Total enrolled	502	458
Race/ethnicity		
White, not Hispanic	8.4%	12.4%
Hispanic or Latino	91.0%	85.3%
Other	0.6%	2.3%
Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch Program	92.4%	82.8%
Total number of safety/discipline incidents	16	48
Total full-time teachers	33	32
Total staff	49	55
Average teaching experience	9	4
Teachers' average days absent	4.8%	8.0%
Overall Academic Performance	Low	Low

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Health Data for Residents Living in the Study Area

This section provides a summary of the data for the zip code area 80631. As stated previously, this area is larger than the EGWCSA. However, it is relevant because it also provides an overall picture of the health of the residents of the Study Area. See Table 3 for health comparisons between zip code 80631 residents (which includes City of Greeley and Weld County residents), Weld County, and State of Colorado residents. See Tables 4 and 5 for health comparisons between people who identify themselves as Hispanic and non-Hispanic living in zip code 80631 and quality of life comparisons, respectively.

- Residents living in the zip code area 80631, which includes the study area, report higher levels of several health indicators than all Weld County residents and Coloradans overall (see Table 3).
 - ☞ General self-reported health status is an indicator of quality of life and disability. General health incorporates physical and mental health and is highly correlated with a person's overall physical health. Adults were asked to describe their general health as "excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor". People who answer

“fair” or “poor” more often have chronic health conditions, poorer mental health status, or activity limitations- all indicators of poorer quality of life. Over 20 percent of adult residents in the study area report “fair” or “poor” health compared to 14 of all Weld County residents and 12 percent of all Coloradoans.

- ☞ Smoking is a risk factor for many chronic diseases. About 20 percent of 80631 zip code area residents currently smoke cigarettes (some days or every day) compared to 18 percent of all Weld County residents and Coloradoans.
- ☞ The prevalence of asthma is also an indicator of health and well being of a population. About 14 percent of people living in the 80631 zip code area report they currently have asthma compared to 12 percent of all Weld County residents and 8 percent of Coloradoans.
- ☞ Almost one-third of 80631 zip code area residents say they participated in *no* leisure time physical activity during the 30 days prior to being surveyed compared to 22 percent of Weld County residents and 17 percent of Coloradoans.
- ☞ For adults, body mass index is calculated using a formula that incorporates height and weight. An individual’s body mass index value is then interpreted the same for both men and women using either 3 or 4 weight status categories. Similar to all Weld County resident, over 60 percent of people living in the 80631 zip code are either overweight or obese.
- ☞ Almost one-fourth of people living in the 80631 zip code area say they have a health problem (physical, mental, or emotional) that limits them from their activities in some way compared to about 17 percent of all Weld County residents. Comparison data for all Coloradoans were not available at the time of this report.

Table 3. Selected health status indicators, 2006

	People living in zip code 80631	Weld County	Colorado
Adults who report fair or poor health	21.2	14.0	11.6
Adults who smoke	20.4	18.1	17.9
Ever told had asthma	13.7	11.8	7.9
Participated in no leisure time PA (ck check again)	32.3	21.5	17.4
Limited activity due to a health problem	23.0	16.9	-
(Body mass index) Overweight or obese	61.7	62.6	54.9

Source: Weld County 2006 BRFSS

- People of Hispanic or Latino origin appear to be at higher risk for adverse health outcomes than people of White, non-Hispanic origin (Table 4). Over 50 percent report getting no recent leisure time physical activity compared to only 15 percent of White, non-Hispanic residents. Also, more Hispanic or Latino residents say their health is fair or poor than White, non-Hispanic residents (30% vs. 13%). Sixty-nine percent of Hispanic or Latino residents are overweight or obese compared to 55 percent of White, non-Hispanic residents.

Table 4. Selected indicators by race/ethnicity for people living in zip code 80631

	Hispanic or Latino	White, non-Hispanic
No physical activity in past 30 days	50.1	15.3
Reported fair or poor health	29.6	12.6
Overweight or obese	69.2	55.1

Source: Weld County 2006 BRFSS

- The majority of residents in the area, regardless of racial and ethnic background are satisfied with their life in general (Table 5). However, more people of Hispanic or Latino origin appear to be less satisfied (5%) compared to people who are white and non-Hispanic (2%).

Table 5. Satisfaction with life for people living in zip code 80631

	Hispanic or Latino	White, non-Hispanic
How satisfied are you with your life?		
Very satisfied	29.2%	49.4%
Satisfied	66.1%	48.8%
Dissatisfied	4.7%	1.8%
Very dissatisfied	0%	0%

Source: Weld County 2006 BRFSS

East Greeley and Weld County Study Area Resident & Key Stakeholders Concerns

- In 2007, the City of Greeley and Weld County held two community meetings and conducted a citizen survey as part of the East Greeley/Weld County sub-area survey. A total of 89 households from the city or county took part in one or both meetings or the survey. The August community meeting was attended by one or more residents from 60 households in the area. The survey was completed by 73 people. Most of the people completing the survey were area home owners (97%); lived in Weld County (80%); lived in the area 10 years or longer (66%); were aged 56 years or older (66%); and had no children at home (72%). Several people attended one or both meeting and completed the survey. Sometimes one or two individuals from the same household completed the survey. A complete summary of the 200 comments obtained from the August community meeting and the tabulated results from the survey can be found in the appendix. It is important to note that nearly all the residents participating in these activities (and who gave their contact information) resided in the county as opposed to inside the city limits of Greeley. Similar issues and concerns were mentioned at the meetings and in the survey. The top two issues and concerns mentioned in the survey were: (a) traffic speeding and careless driving and the amount of traffic (including truck traffic) in the area, and (b) not being satisfied with neighborhood streets in terms of safety and convenience for walking and biking. These concerns were also voiced at community meetings. Two other concerns many residents mentioned in the survey and at the meetings were dissatisfaction with the storm water drainage system in the area and a major concern about increased crime including gang activity, vandalism, and theft.

“In 26 years, there have been many changes. Traffic has increased. I used to feel safe [but that’s] not true anymore. Road side trash has gotten worse and vandalism to our property is up 100%”.

Weld County resident –living in Study Area



Soft surface walking path along East 20th Street near Bella Romero Elementary School

- In October 2007, the City of Greeley and Weld County conducted several group interviews with key stakeholders from several public agencies familiar with the East Greeley Weld County Study Area.

Interviews were organized around four infrastructure topic areas: emergency services, ecological, utilities, and mineral extraction.

- ☞ Staff representing emergency services reported that many of the roads in the area have narrow roads with no shoulders and stated the area could benefit



Sidewalk on East 20 Street in Greeley City limits

from gravel shoulders. They also mentioned that a speed study could be conducted in the area and acknowledged that the intersection of 18th Street and Highway 34 is dangerous and would be a priority as future improvements are considered. There are also several neighborhood safety programs active in the City of Greeley portion of the study area including Neighborhood Watch, Operation Stay Safe, and Neighborhood Building Blocks.

- ☞ Colorado Division of Wildlife staff who represent the ecological aspects of land use in the area, highlighted that much of the area is a riparian corridor and that there is a long history of hunting in the area. Both these aspects of land use need to be preserved, in their opinion.
- ☞ Utilities representatives discussed infrastructure around water ditches, electric energy capacity, and water and sewer lines.
- ☞ Mineral Extraction representatives said that the EGWCSA would continue to get its share of new oil and gas wells and that aggregate mining will probably continue in the area for the foreseeable future.

- In Fall 2007, the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment conducted a random sample survey of Weld County residents. About 2,400 county residents completed the survey. Quantitative data from this Community Health Survey was not available for use at the time of this report writing. However, data was filtered and it was determined that fifteen respondents who live in the EGWCSA made written comments, which were reviewed. The health issues mentioned by EGWCSA residents were:

☞ (1) a concern about the amount of mosquitoes and a statement that spraying for mosquitoes seems to help in there area; (2) a concern that the increase in population has brought about increased traffic and increased drivers with poor driving habits; (3) an expression of gratitude toward the City of Greeley for ending smoking in bars and restaurants; (4) an acknowledgement that not being able to afford health insurance is significantly affecting their household finances; and (5) a general concern for the need for affordable health care. In addition to the health related issues mentioned above, several residents of the EGWCSA expressed a concern about the economic and community impacts of new and/or temporary immigrant residents moving into this area.

- Key stakeholder interviews were conducted in February 2008 with eight people who live or work in the East Greeley/Weld County study area. People were recruited by word of mouth and from lists of residents who attended previous meetings. On average, interviews were 45 minutes in length and were taped and partially transcribed. Four interviewees live in the county, three live in the city and one works in the county. The most salient health issues mentioned by city and county residents are outlined in Tables 6 and 7.

“The commercial retail stores like the carniceria are far too expensive. It is good that it is close to us, but the items cost double what they do in other stores.”

Greeley resident



Convenience store on East 24th Street

Table 6. Community assets identified by community stakeholders

Community Health Assets	
City Residents	County Residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parks and new water park are easy to get to and clean ▪ Strong sense of community and friendly neighbors; people are content and have been there a long time ▪ Positive law enforcement presence and Juvenile Assessment Center has helped decrease problems ▪ Elementary schools are an asset and host many after-school activities and evening programs with strong parent involvement ▪ Boys and Girls Club is convenient for children in the area ▪ Tom Davis Community Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less traffic and noise than in the city ▪ Some residents feel safe in their neighborhood ▪ Schools are good and an asset to the community ▪ Water is good and the rivers are much cleaner than a few years ago ▪ Neighbors are friendly and always watch out for each other ▪ Strong connection to the land and feeling of contentment with the lifestyle ▪ Snow removal good

Table 7. Community deficits identified by community stakeholders

Community Health Deficits	
City Residents	County Residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety issues including such things as property damage and vandalism, gang activity, display of gang colors, and graffiti. Parks and streets are not safe for kids and people can't walk outside at night without additional lighting ▪ Lack of availability of affordable, fresh and nutritious food in the neighborhood store(s) ▪ Trash in the neighborhoods, on public streets and on some private residents' property. Some types of trash pose a health hazard ▪ Differences in the standard of living; many people living in the area can't afford medical and dental care services ▪ Lack of affordable transportation in the area ▪ Street and road maintenance is an issue ▪ Presence of large amounts of mosquitoes in the summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structural concerns about road maintenance, lack of sidewalks for kids to walk to school ▪ Increased traffic and noise on some of the roads that border the city limits ▪ Property maintenance, and trash dumping on roads ▪ For some, safety is a concern when walking outside in some areas/roads ▪ Always problems with mosquitoes and West Nile virus in the summer

Conclusions

Many factors influence people's health. An environment that offers residents of all ages multiple opportunities for physical activity and easy access to healthy food choices is just one of those factors, but it is an essential one. Living in one of these well designed neighborhoods does not guarantee people will maintain or adopt positive health habits, but living in an area where the built environment discourages people from being physically active or eating healthy may ensure that people do not.

“We have lived here for four years. It is not dirty, it is quiet, but there are quite a few foreclosures in the area.”
Weld County resident

The purpose of this rapid HIA is to gather and evaluate health-related data for the City of Greeley and Weld County to help guide and resolve concerns about infrastructure, policy and procedures affecting the East Greeley Weld Study Area. Further analysis may reveal other issues of importance that did not surface during this study or more clearly define the issues identified in this report.

The rapid HIA found the following:

- The area has strong historical roots and most residents like living in the area; however, safety and security is a major concern for many residents living in the area.
- A segment of the Poudre Trail is scheduled to be built within the Study Area in the future. This will add considerable miles to the recreational opportunities of the area (see map in the appendix).
- There is a newly constructed recreational water park that is scheduled to open summer 2008.
- The lack of infrastructure, such as no sidewalks in the county portion of the study area, major roads that are difficult to cross, and in some areas heavy traffic, all of which make it difficult to walk in the study area or to other parts of Greeley.
- In general, the area is thriving but is constrained by some problems with infrastructure such as roadways and utility services in need of improvement. The land itself has not been severely affected by too much development, but residents' health could potentially be affected due to their concerns about safety and security.
- There are limited options for obtaining food in or around the area. There is a discount grocery store in the Study Area, one small market, and a convenience store/gas station. A farmers market is located in Downtown Greeley, outside the Study Area. However, the farmers market is not easily accessible without a car because Highway 85 is a barrier to non-motorized transportation.
- Several residents were concerned about an excessive amount of mosquitoes in the area.
- A large proportion of residents living the area are at risk for adverse health outcomes due to their environment. Children attending Bella Romero Elementary School, seniors (especially those living in the county portion of the study area),

“For most families it is fine to live here, but there are young people around that don't go to school, that don't have jobs and think their lives are more important than everyone else.”
City of Greeley resident

people of color or who are low-income that mostly reside in the southwest portion of the study area are at the most risk.

Recommendations

Some recommended strategies are as follows:

1. Continue the city/county collaboration. One idea is to further analyze the area's roads, walkways, lighting, and storm drainage as they relate to residents' concerns about safety and security. This might lead to establishing a "Safe and Secure" initiative which may have one or two major goals. A related idea might be to find ways to improve the connection of the area to other parts of town by reducing barriers associated with Highway 85 being in the study area.
2. Establish a "Live Well" citizen group (or some other health-related type name) with equal representation from city and county residents to help come up with solutions to improve health assets in the area. Potential improvements could include such assets as investigating ways to get a fresh food market business to open in the area, or organizing a community garden, etc.
3. Find ways to reduce potential adverse health impacts of the environment in the study area on at risk groups living the area.

- o Get more input from residents in southwest residential area about what the structural barriers to improving their health habits are.
- o Bella Romero Elementary School is located in the study area but outside Greeley city limits. As a consequence, there are no sidewalks in the County to allow children a safe route to bike and walk to school. The City of Greeley has put in a soft-surface path along 20th Street from Cherry Avenue to the school site for off street pedestrian traffic. However, with the limited availability of safe

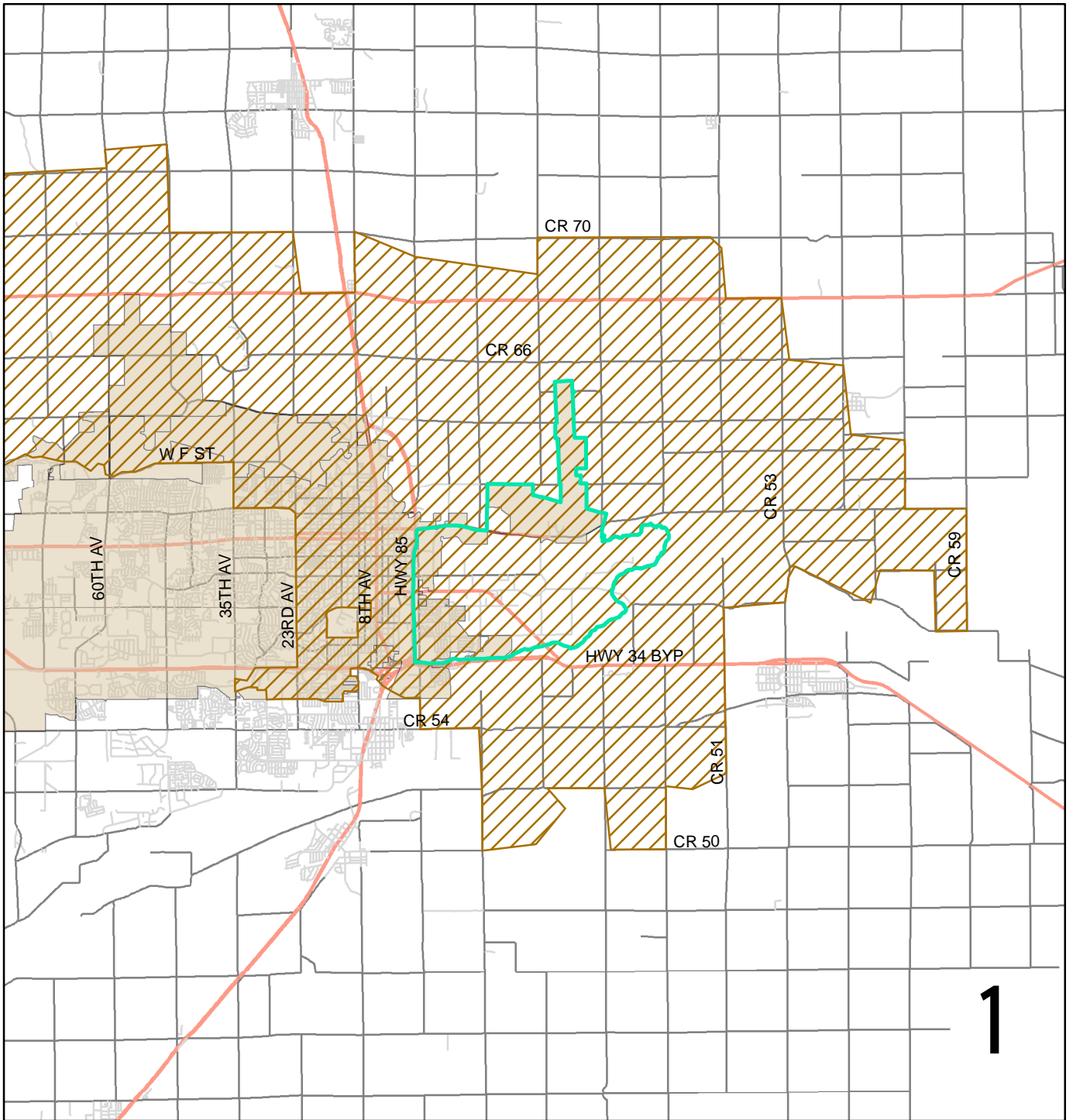
walking/biking routes, Bella Romero has instituted a 'no bike, no walk' policy. They may be a potential candidate for the Safe Routes to School program. SafeKids Weld County has had initial discussions with school officials, local businesses, and the Weld County Public Works Department

about putting in sidewalks and crossing lights at the school.



Discovery Bay Water Park




Zip Code 80631 Boundary



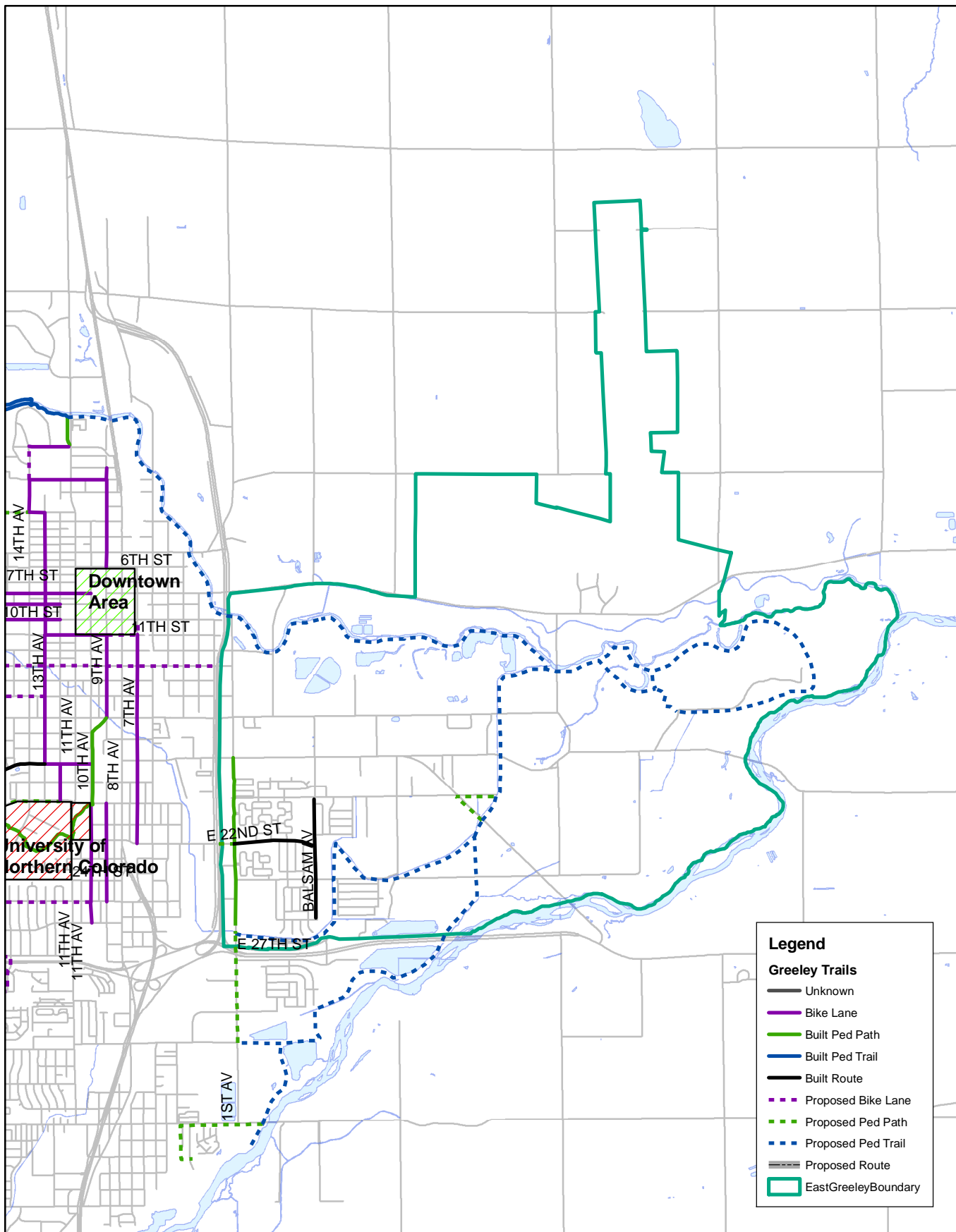
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Legend

-  E Greeley Study Boundary
-  Zip Code 80631
-  Greeley City Limits

East Greeley Study Area Trails 2008



Legend

Greeley Trails

- Unknown
- Bike Lane
- Built Ped Path
- Built Ped Trail
- Built Route
- - - Proposed Bike Lane
- - - Proposed Ped Path
- - - Proposed Ped Trail
- - - Proposed Route
- East Greeley Boundary