MULTI-HAZARD RISK SUMMARY

Vulnerability Summary

- **Building Stock** – Many structures are vulnerable to hazards due to age, condition, and nonconformance with codes.
- **High Density on Steep Slopes** – Developments in areas of steep topography have poor access for emergency and firefighting equipment and for evacuation purposes, putting the safety of residents, visitors, and first responders at risk.
- **Code Enforcement** – A gap exists in the City's tracking of building inspection activity, particularly for building remodels.
- **Infrastructure and Services** – The City's aging road, water, and sewer systems west of City Hall are in poor condition and vulnerable to natural hazards, including landslides, erosion, flooding, and winter and summer storm events.
- **Transportation and Mobility** – The closure of Highway 24 and Manitou Avenue due to natural hazard events affects ingress and egress to the City.
- **Economic Risk** – Downtown businesses are located in high hazard areas and vulnerable to damages from future flood and landslide/mud and debris flow events.
- **Risk Communication** – Risk communication activities must target citizens and business owners but also visitors/tourists, seasonal residents, and vulnerable populations such as elderly and non-English speakers.

Future Growth and Development

New development and redevelopment in hazard areas without policies to mitigate losses will increase the community’s risk. Gaps in existing policies and regulations include:

- No hazard specific ordinance outside of the floodplain ordinance.
- No wildfire mitigation policies in place in wildland-urban interface areas.
- No formal review process, requirements, or criteria when site plans are submitted prevents hazards from being addressed.

Climate Change Considerations

Hazard information presented here is mostly based on past events. Scientists predict that climate change will result in future conditions that are different and less predictable. Extreme weather may increase in frequency and severity.

Mitigation Action Ideas

**Local Plans and Regulations**
- Integrate policies for development in high hazard areas in the community master plan
- Improve enforcement of building codes
- Incorporate hazard risk assessment into development review process

**Structure and Infrastructure Projects**
- Develop program to inventory and assist with retrofits of vulnerable historic structures
- Coordinate with Colorado Springs Utilities in preventing damage to utilities

**Natural Systems Protection**
- Preserve and acquire high hazard areas as open space

**Education and Awareness**
- Collaborate with school district to incorporate information on hazards and activities to reduce risk and improve safety.
- Establish a technical assistance program for property owners to access information and resources.