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A Safe, Healthy, Inclusive  
& Skilled Community

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**We rely on the City’s police and fire departments to keep us safe and protect our property from harm, yet understand we all need to value our community and care for our families, homes, and neighbors. Careful planning is necessary to ensure that our future safety needs will be met as the City continues to grow. In addition to ensuring the safety of our community, we envision a community that supports our health and well-being; one that provides access to health care services, enables active and healthy lifestyles, provides educational opportunities for our youth and workforce to develop the skills needed to succeed, and recognizes that everyone must play a role in the betterment of our neighborhoods and our community. Likewise, we will strive to be a community that is recognized as being welcoming and inclusive to people of all ages, ethnic groups, family type, and economic standing.**

## OVERVIEW

Many different City departments, service providers, agencies, and community groups work together to protect the lives and properties of Rapid City residents. Overall, Rapid City is generally a safe community; however this does not mean that properties and residents are not without risks. Natural hazards such as flooding, severe winter storms, and wildfires have all occurred in recent years, and the City is vulnerable to future natural hazard events as well. Human activities, such as crime, engaging

in unhealthy behaviors, and building in unsuitable areas also present long-term risks to the population. Emphasis on reducing these natural and human-induced risks, as well as promoting preparedness will help increase resiliency when hazards arise.

Physical activity and access to food and services also play important roles in community wellness. Rapid City is fortunate to have an extensive parks and greenway system that supports recreation, as well as numerous recreational facilities and offerings. However, gaps and missing connections in the

sidewalk, trails, and bicycle systems limit the community’s full potential to engage in active transportation modes such as walking and bicycling. In terms of food and nutrition, the Rapid City area has higher rates of obesity than national averages, and some portions of the community have limited access to healthy foods. Increasing opportunities for convenient, affordable, and healthy foods to all populations is critical to improve overall health and nutrition.

Rapid City features numerous health and social service providers, which serve the local



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community and the broader region. Improved access and transportation to these health and social services is a key need, especially for residents who do not drive. As the population ages, many residents will likely find themselves in need of these services, but lacking the ability to drive themselves.

Like its broad network of health and social service providers, Rapid City also is home to an array of educational providers including a large public school system, five higher education institutions, and many other learning resources and opportunities. Continued coordination with these institutions and providers will support numerous community objectives including workforce development, resource sharing and maximization, and attracting and retaining youth and families.

To support the vision for a safe, healthy, inclusive, and skilled community, the principles, goals, and policies in this chapter address the following:

- Ensuring secure, safe public spaces, neighborhoods, and business districts;
- Minimizing hazard risks and enhancing resiliency;
- Supporting community health and well-being;
- Fostering a caring and inclusive community; and
- Focusing on lifelong learning.

### PRINCIPLES, GOALS, AND POLICIES (SHIS)

#### Principle SHIS-1: Ensuring Safe and Secure Public Spaces, Neighborhoods, and Business Districts

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*Rapid City will be a safe and secure community by continuing to provide high quality services for policing and law enforcement, fire protection, and life safety. Increased emphasis will be placed on enhancing perceptions of public safety through design of buildings, parking areas, pathways, landscaping, and roadways. Collaboration between safety providers and residents and businesses will promote open lines of communication and strengthen our sense of safety and community.*

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#### Goal SHIS-1.1: Continue to provide high quality community safety services.

##### SHIS-1.1A: LEVELS OF SERVICE

Determine and monitor appropriate levels of service and response times for police, fire, and emergency medical services. Explore options to maintain levels of safety service as the community grows, such as increased service fees, impact fees on new development, and land dedications in major subdivisions. Public safety agencies like police, fire and emergency medical

services should seek to obtain and/or maintain accreditation. Accredited status represents a significant achievement, recognizing that an institution meets or exceeds general expectations of quality in the field. Accreditation acknowledges the use of policies that are both conceptually sound and operationally effective.

##### SHIS-1.1B: GROWTH COORDINATION

Align future expansions and improvements to address existing needs and support future growth. Explore options to maintain levels of service as the community grows, such as impact fees, land dedications, and payments in lieu of land dedications.

##### SHIS-1.1C: TAILORED APPROACH

Tailor patrol methods, station locations, and response approaches to different needs and areas of the community, such as police foot patrols Downtown, bicycle patrols along the greenway, and coordination with County, Federal, and volunteer service providers at the community's fringe.

#### Goal SHIS-1.2: Employ a proactive, collaborative approach to enhance community safety.

##### SHIS-1.2A: CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH DESIGN

Integrate crime prevention through environmental design principles into the design of public spaces and development areas to reduce opportunities for criminal activity and increase safety for all users.



**SHIS-1.2B: ACTIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Encourage proactive community involvement in neighborhood and City safety matters, including cooperation with law enforcement and safety personnel, neighborhood watches, home/business security and monitoring, and other grassroots efforts.

**SHIS-1.2C: PARTNERSHIPS**

Foster coordination and build partnerships with schools, libraries, community groups and organizations, and other safety providers to provide a coordinated approach to enhancing community safety.

**Principle SHIS-2: Minimizing Hazard Risks and Supporting Disaster Resiliency**

*As the community grows, the City will encourage development patterns and construction practices that minimize risk from hazards such as wildfire, flooding, and severe storms, and will support*

*adaptation measures in existing parts of the community to enhance resiliency and recovery when disasters arise.*

**Goal SHIS-2.1: Reduce hazard risks by minimizing development in areas with safety or environmental risks or constraints.**

**SHIS-2.1A: LIMITED DEVELOPMENT IN RISKY AREAS**

Limit development in areas with environmental risks such as flood prone areas, areas with unsuitable soils for septic systems (where public sewer connections are not available) and slide prone slopes.

**SHIS-2.1B: WILDFIRE AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS**

Enhance wildfire risk awareness in forested areas (including but not limited to the defined Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)) and promote resident wildfire preparedness and risk reduction.

**SHIS-2.1C: AIRPORT COMPATIBILITY**

Avoid development in airport encroachment zones, as established by the Rapid City Regional Airport Master Plan Land Use Compatibility Plan, which poses immediate or long-term risks to flight safety or building occupants, such as tall buildings, excessive reflectivity or lighting, landscaping that attracts wildlife, and residential or high-occupancy uses.

**Goal SHIS-2.2: Enhance community resiliency and emergency preparedness.**

**SHIS-2.2A: STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Maintain and update as needed strategic plans for police and fire, and other emergency management functions to monitor emerging needs as the community continues to grow. Support ongoing coordination and partnerships with outside agencies that provide safety services.

**SHIS-2.2B: JOINT USE FACILITIES/PARTNERSHIPS**

Support ongoing coordination and partnerships both within the City organization and with outside entities (e.g., schools) to promote efficiency in the provision of services, support mutual goals, and increase awareness of community resources with regard to safety and emergency preparedness.

**SHIS-2.2C: EMERGENCY ACCESS**

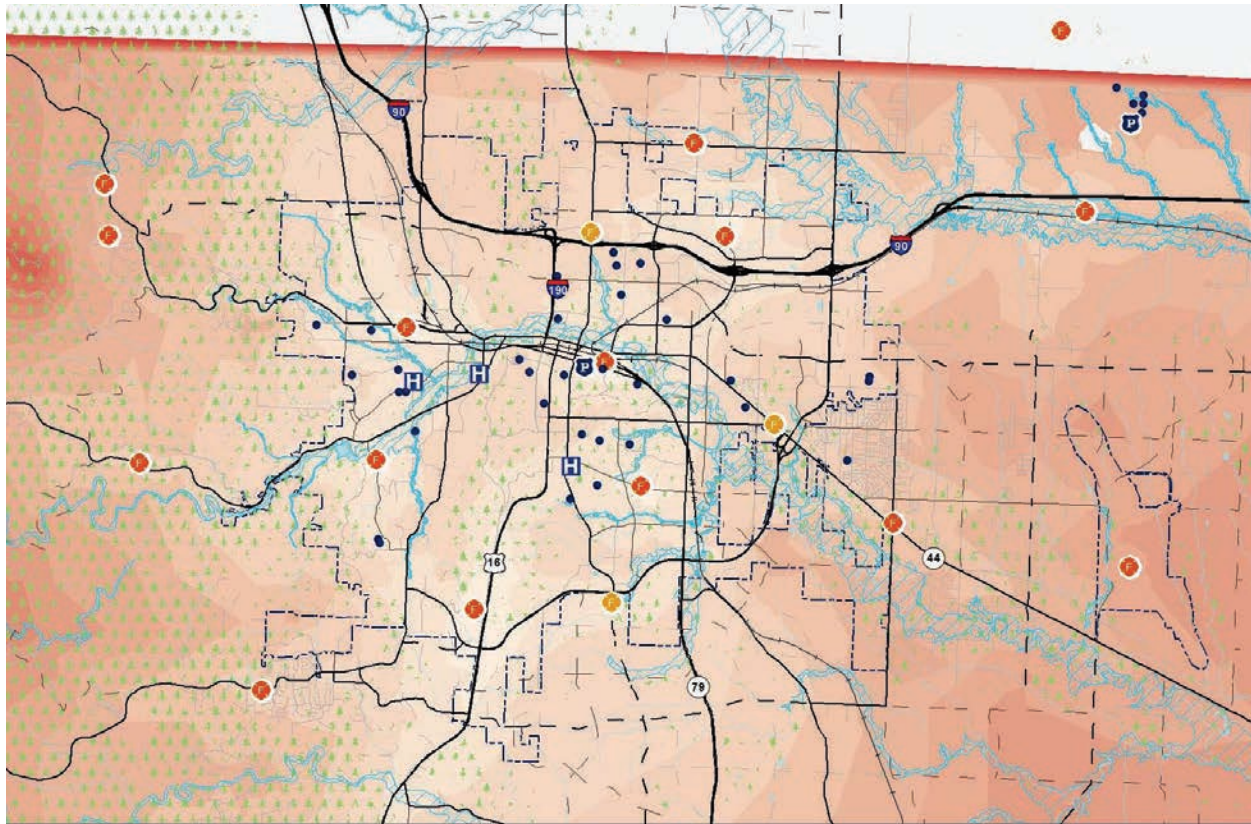
Ensure new development provides multiple points of access for emergency response, and pursue opportunities to establish





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Community Safety Map



**Natural Hazard**

- Flood Hazard Overlay
- Forest

**Safety Facility**

- School
- Hospital
- Police Station
- Fire Station (Existing)
- Fire Station (Future)

**Estimated Fire Response Time (minutes)**

0 - 2	6 - 8	12 - 14	18 - 20	24 - 26
2 - 4	8 - 10	14 - 16	20 - 22	26 - 28
4 - 6	10 - 12	16 - 18	22 - 24	28 - 30

*Fire response data not available for Meade County*

additional points of access in wildfire risk areas where only one access point currently exists.

**SHIS-2.2D: SURVIVABLE SPACES**

Incorporate survivable spaces and hardened facilities capable of withstanding man-made and natural disasters in new public buildings. Design these spaces to serve multiple functions (e.g., community meeting rooms and safe room). Encourage the construction of facilities in the WUI that are more likely to withstand a wildfire without

intervention or direct protection by fire responders, using measures to create survivable spaces such as vegetation management, fuel reduction, sprinklers, and fire-resistant building materials.

**SHIS-2.2E: FLOOD MAPPING AND INSURANCE**

Maintain a FEMA-approved Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) that identifies Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) across the community. Ensure that properties financed by federally backed mortgages and located

within SFHAs mapped on the FIRM carry flood insurance policies, and encourage flood insurance participation in all flood-prone areas. Additionally, abide by the adopted policies of the Final Report of the Floodplain Policy Committee (2008).

**SHIS-2.2F: EMERGENCY PLANS**

Support ongoing community education, training, and preparedness for different types of emergencies including natural and human-caused disasters. This includes community-wide drills



and emergency management plans, as well as individual preparedness plans and emergency supplies.

### **Principle SHIS-3: Supporting Community Health and Well-Being**

*Rapid City aims to be a healthy community, enabling its residents to pursue meaningful and fulfilling lives. The City will seek opportunities to increase the health and well-being of residents by supporting healthy living and lifestyle choices, and by providing opportunities for active recreation and transportation, such as walking and bicycling. The City will encourage and support local food production and distribution systems to improve the availability of and accessibility to healthy foods.*

#### **Goal SHIS-3.1: Expand opportunities for fitness and active living.**

##### **SHIS-3.1A: PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE NETWORKS**

Enhance options for active transportation, such as pedestrian and bicycle travel. Ensure that sidewalks, trails, and bicycle lanes are provided as development occurs, and prioritize the construction of missing links to connect bicycle and pedestrian facilities and traffic calming mechanisms in high-traffic areas.

##### **SHIS-3.1B: INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATION**

Encourage a variety of publicly and privately run indoor and outdoor recreation facilities

across the community to provide opportunities for physical activity and support healthy lifestyles.

##### **SHIS-3.1C: RECREATION OPTIONS**

Support a wide variety of public and private recreational offerings to satisfy the needs and demands of all ages and abilities of Rapid City's residents.

##### **SHIS-3.1D: ACTIVE LIFESTYLE COLLABORATION**

Collaborate with schools, community health and wellness organizations, and the medical community to encourage active lifestyles, to expand recreation options, and to increase awareness about fitness options and the benefits of healthy living.

#### **Goal SHIS-3.2: Enhance options for food that is healthy, affordable, and convenient.**

##### **SHIS-3.2A: LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS**

Support existing agricultural operations and the development of personal gardening and local food systems (such as community gardens, farmers' markets, shared commercial kitchens, and food cooperatives/retailers) to expand access to healthy food options.

##### **SHIS-3.2B: NUTRITION COORDINATION**

Coordinate with schools, food banks, food retailers, health and social services providers, and others to address community nutrition needs and to expand access to healthy and affordable foods.

##### **SHIS-3.2C: FOOD RETAILER DEVELOPMENT**

Support the development and geographic distribution of food retailers across the community. Encourage food retailers that provide healthy and nutritious products, and consider health impacts when reviewing proposals for convenience stores and/or fast food retailers in neighborhoods or areas with few other food options.

#### **Goal SHIS-3.3: Increase the accessibility of health and social services.**

##### **SHIS-3.3A: FACILITY COORDINATION**

Coordinate and collaborate with health and social service providers on the siting of new facilities. Encourage locations that are convenient for clients, and explore options for shared-use facilities to maximize efficiency and client access.







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### SHIS-3.3B: MULTI-MODAL ACCESSIBILITY

Support improvements that increase opportunities for community members to access health and social services, such as transit service adjustments and bicycle and pedestrian linkages.

### SHIS-3.3C: NEARBY HOUSING

Encourage housing (especially for the elderly, disabled, low-income and other special populations) in close proximity to health and social service facilities to enhance convenience and provide opportunities for access without needing to drive.

### Goal SHIS-3.4: Encourage wellness through education and prevention.

### SHIS-3.4A: COMMUNITY AWARENESS

Participate in school and agency programs that increase awareness and educate citizens on the importance of making healthy choices in regards to their mind and body—such as programs to combat tobacco, alcohol, and drug dependency and raise awareness on suicide prevention resources.

### SHIS-3.4B: PREVENTION WORKFORCE EDUCATION

Support skilled prevention workforce education and skill development by encouraging the continuation and expansion of educational programs that match the skills and needs of existing prevention and health promotion providers.

### Principle SHIS-4: Fostering a Caring and Inclusive Community

*Rapid City strives to be a community that is free from discrimination and is welcoming and inclusive to people of all ages, ethnic groups, family type, and economic standing. The City will embrace diversity, and encourage and promote opportunities for all residents to be as self-sufficient as their abilities allow. The City will continue to collaborate with social, health, and human service providers to seek ways to effectively engage underserved and vulnerable populations in community discussions, events, and activities.*

### Goal SHIS-4.1: Eliminate discrimination and support opportunities for residents of all abilities, ethnicities, and income levels.

### SHIS-4.1A: GOVERNMENT INCLUSIVENESS

Provide a welcoming environment and encourage participation in City government at all levels by residents of all abilities, ages, gender, ethnicities, income levels, and family types.

### SHIS-4.1B: DIVERSITY COLLABORATION

Pursue partnerships and opportunities to collaborate with community groups and organizations to support diversity, reduce discrimination, and engage special populations.

### Principle SHIS-5: Placing a Strong Focus on Lifelong Learning

*Rapid City residents value the community's first-rate schools and libraries, and will continue to support the maintenance and enhancement of facilities needed to provide quality educational opportunities for the community. Continuing support will be provided for our higher learning institutions, with a particular emphasis on matching workforce training to local employment opportunities that will allow the community to retain talented students as they begin their careers and providing continuing education opportunities for the older adult population.*





**Goal SHIS-5.1: Support a citywide network of strong and successful schools.**

**SHIS-5.1A: EDUCATION COORDINATION**

Coordinate with the school district, area colleges, and other workforce development and training institutions on short and long-range planning issues, including but not limited to campus plans, facility needs, transportation, and housing.

**SHIS-5.1B: FACILITY SHARING AND REUSE**

Encourage shared City/school facilities, such as community centers and parks, to maximize investments and available resources. Explore options for repurposing or reuse if existing school facilities close, to retain activity levels and prevent neighborhood degradation.

**Goal SHIS-5.2: Develop and retain a skilled workforce and enhance opportunities for lifelong learning.**

**SHIS-5.2A: LINKING TRAINING AND JOBS**

Support ongoing coordination among local colleges, training facilities, economic development organizations, and employers to match workforce training with local industries and employment opportunities.

**SHIS-5.2B: LIFELONG LEARNING**

Encourage the growth of educational institutions that provide opportunities for learning throughout all stages of life, including but not limited to early childhood education, primary and secondary institutions, vocational programs, enrichment classes, and online opportunities.