

INSPIRATION™

METROPOLITAN
DISTRICT



Strategic Plan

2026-2031

INSPIRATIONMETRO.ORG





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About Inspiration Metropolitan District

■ Understanding Our Community: Inspiration Metropolitan District

Inspiration Metropolitan District (IMD) is a master-planned community located in southeast Aurora, Colorado, sitting at an elevation of approximately 6,200 feet within Colorado’s high-desert landscape.

This environment shapes how the community looks and functions, with large areas of native open space and carefully maintained landscaped areas that require significant care and irrigation to thrive in Colorado’s climate.



2026 IMD Outlook

1,916	3,800	1,024	892
Total Homes	Adult residents	Age Restricted 55+ Homes	All Ages Homes

Residents enjoy more than

12	8
miles of paved trails	Parks and NACs

Community Area

583	440
acres of residential homes	acres of parks and open space

A community pool and facility, Neighborhood Activity Centers (NACs), and a wide variety of shared spaces designed to support an active and connected lifestyle.

■ Inspiration Governance & Operations

Inspiration Metropolitan District operates through a professional district management firm, the Board of Directors, Volunteer Committees and Independent contractors to maintain the community. IMD is a Special District under Colorado law. Special districts are commonly used to fund and maintain infrastructure and community amenities. District services are funded through property taxes and quarterly operating fees.

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors elected by residents.



■ Services

The Board sets policies, develops and oversees capital and operating budgets, and guides long-term planning for community assets.

The District also has standing Committees that are run by community volunteers to research and review district issues and support Board decision making.

Board and committee meetings are open to all residents. Day-to-day operations are managed by an outside management company.

The IMD directly manages the following infrastructure, services and amenities:

- Parks, trails, open spaces, and common areas
- Neighborhood Activity Centers and community amenities
- Trash and recycling service
- Community programs and communications
- Architectural review and covenant enforcement
- Snow removal on District-owned trails and parking areas



■ Neighborhoods within the Inspiration Metropolitan District Community

The Inspiration Metropolitan District (IMD) community consists of two neighborhoods, the All-Ages neighborhood and the Age-Restricted 55+ neighborhood.

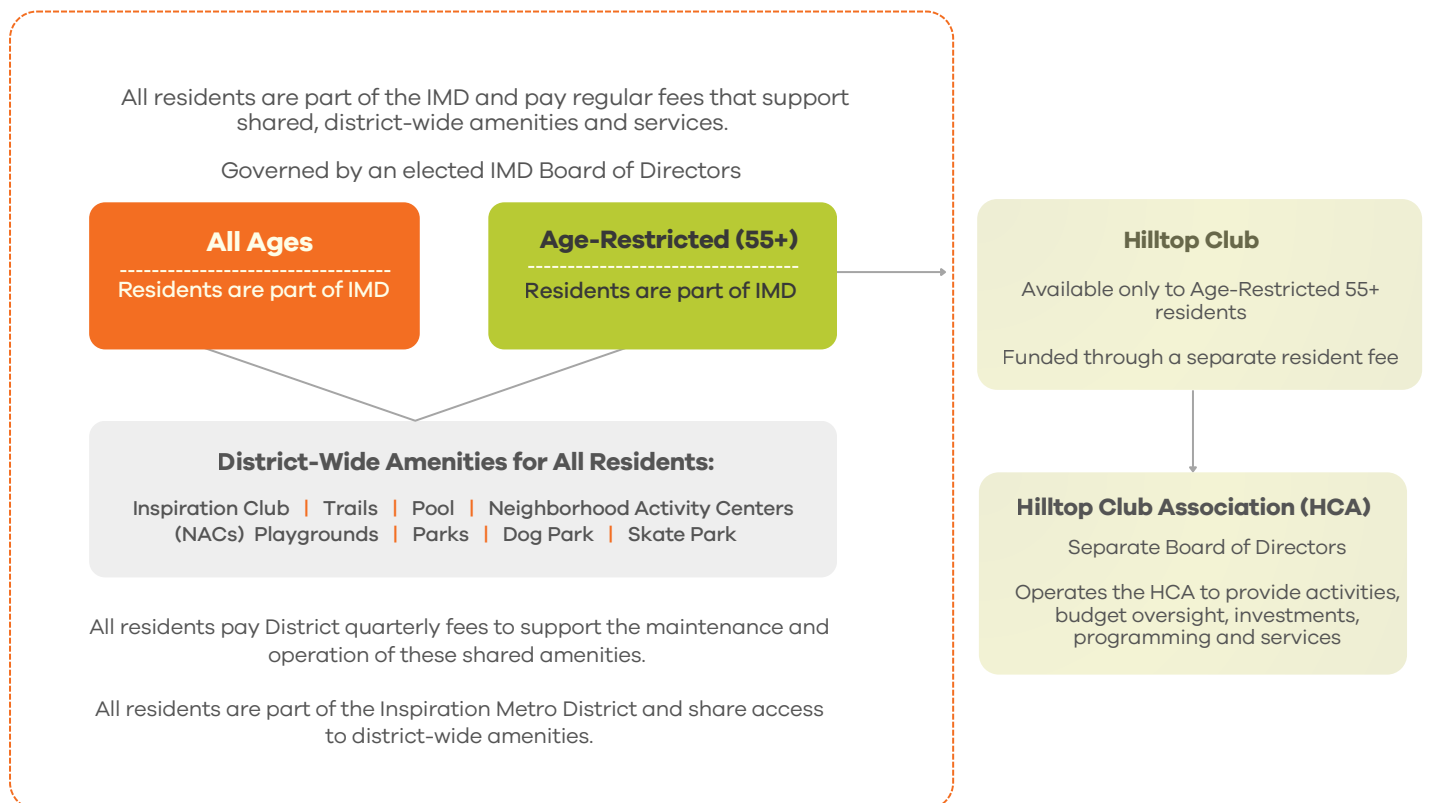
All residents are members of IMD and pay quarterly fees that support shared, district-wide amenities, including the Inspiration Club, trails, Neighborhood Activity Centers (NACs), playgrounds, parks, dog park, skate park, and other community spaces.

The Age-Restricted 55+ neighborhood residents also pay an additional regular fee to operate the

private Hilltop Club and its dedicated amenities, programming and related services.

The Hilltop Club Association (HCA) is governed by its own Board of Directors, separate from the District Board, and is responsible for oversight of Hilltop Club operations, budget, activities, and facility investments.

Residents of the All-Ages neighborhood do not pay an additional fee for and, do not have access to the private Hilltop Club.



■ Services Provided by the City and County

While the District oversees community amenities and shared spaces, traditional municipal services are provided by the City of Aurora and Douglas County:



City of Aurora



Police, fire, and emergency medical services



Street ownership and maintenance



Snowplowing on public streets



Code enforcement



Water service



Municipal court



Animal control

Douglas County



Property tax administration



Vehicle registration



Health and social services



Douglas County School District



County Courthouse



Public education services



This strategic plan will help guide how the community continues to care for its assets, respond to resident priorities, and plan for the future together.

Plan Development Process



The Inspiration Metropolitan District's Strategic Plan was developed over an eight-month period to establish clear priorities and guide the District's activities and investments over the next five years.

The process combined Board leadership, advisory group recommendations, and a phased review of community input to inform the development of the plan.

To support this effort, the District established a Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee composed of community members, Board representatives, and members of existing District committees.

This advisory group worked in partnership with the Board throughout the process to review community input, analyze emerging themes, and provide recommendations that helped shape the District's strategic priorities, goals, and initiatives. The planning effort followed an iterative process of review and refinement.

The plan development process began with an initial Board of Directors work session focused on identifying community strengths, opportunities, and a long-term vision for the Inspiration Metro District.

Community input was then solicited over the next several months and reviewed during working sessions by both the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee and the Board to identify key themes, values and areas of focus.

Subsequent Board and Strategic Plan Committee review sessions were used to refine the strategic direction and ensure alignment with District operations and financial considerations, resulting in a focused set of priorities and initiatives that will guide the District's decision-making over the next five years.

Figure 1 illustrates the **plan development activities** over the past eight months to complete the plan.



Figure 1: Community Engagement Focus to Collect Input, Ideas & Feedback

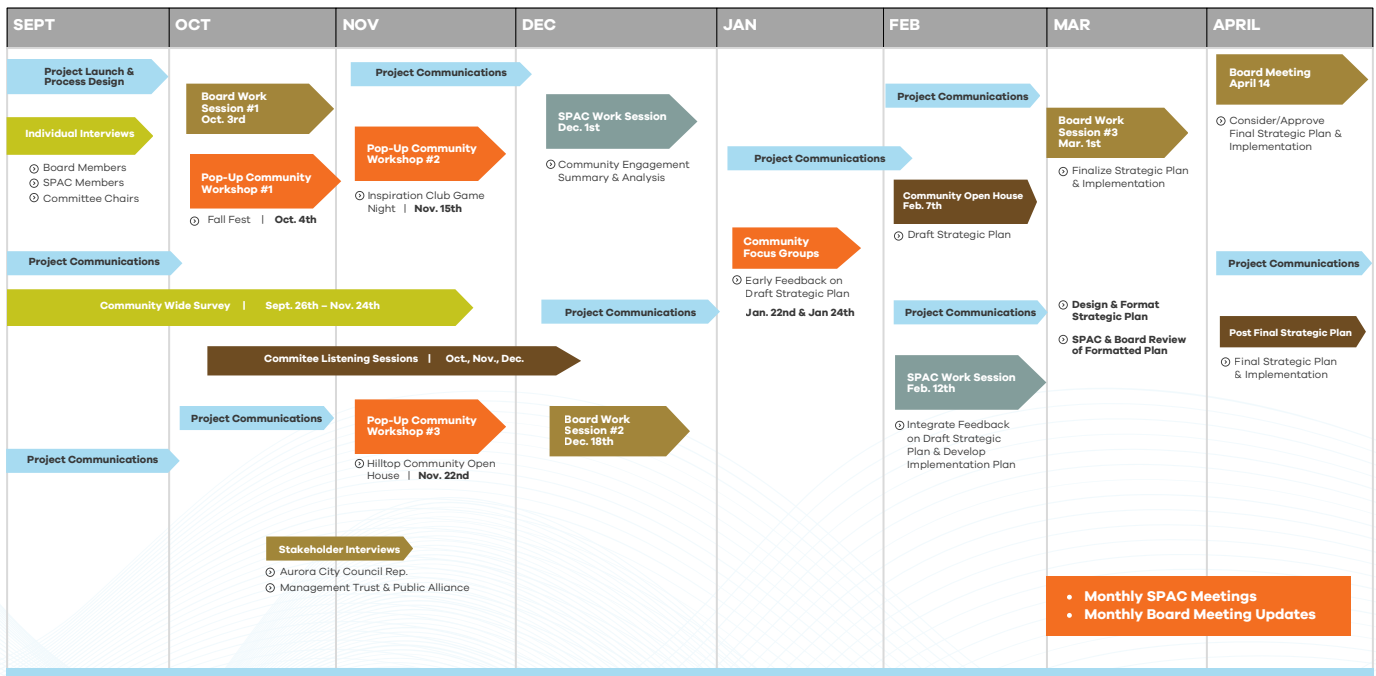


Figure 2: Overview of Strategic Plan Development Process & Timeline

Community Engagement



Development of the Inspiration Metropolitan District’s first Strategic Plan was guided by a robust community engagement process designed to ensure the plan reflects the needs, priorities, and ideas of residents. Over an eight-month period, the District utilized multiple engagement methods to solicit ideas, gather input and encourage broad participation across the community (See Figure 2).

The engagement process included an online and mailed community survey, pop-up workshops, a community meeting, resident focus groups, and an open house, including opportunities for residents to provide written feedback on draft strategic priorities and initiatives.

In total, 824 residents participated in the community survey, representing a strong response rate for a community of this size. Additional engagement activities generated approximately 150 written comments on proposed priorities and plan elements.

824

resident survey participants

~150

written comments generated from additional activities.

Plan development included engagement sessions with each of IMD’s standing committees and multiple planning sessions with the Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee, and the District Board to review community feedback and help shape the goals and initiatives included in the plan.

This collaborative approach ensured that both resident perspectives and operational considerations were reflected in the final strategic plan.

Collectively, the engagement process provided valuable insight into community priorities, including communication, amenities and recreational opportunities, neighborhood quality, public safety, and responsible stewardship of District resources. The community engagement feedback gathered through this process directly informed the strategic priorities, goals, and initiatives detailed in this plan. The following pages summarize where we’ve been and what we heard.

Community Engagement Summary



Where We've Been: Engagement Formats

Individual Interviews

5

Board of Directors

5

Committee Chairs

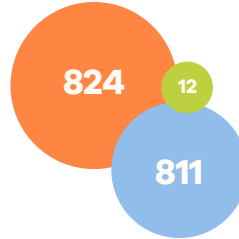
7

S.P.A.C. Members

3

Stakeholders: (Aurora City Council Rep. & IMD Management Companies)

Community Survey (online + paper)



824 responses

811 responses online

12 paper surveys returned & documented



Community Workshops, Committee Meetings & Engagement Opportunities

- ⌚ Fall Fest Pop-Up Workshop
- ⌚ Inspiration Club Game Night Pop-Up Workshop
- ⌚ Hilltop Community Open House
- ⌚ IMD Committee Meetings
- ⌚ Resident Focus Groups to Review Draft Plan
- ⌚ Inspiration Metro District Community Open House-Draft Plan Showcase

Communications & Promotion

- ⌚ Project website
- ⌚ Email blasts
- ⌚ E-Newsletters (Inspiration & Hilltop)
- ⌚ Information & Event flyers

22%

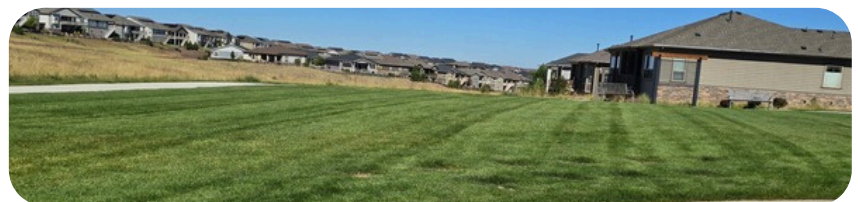
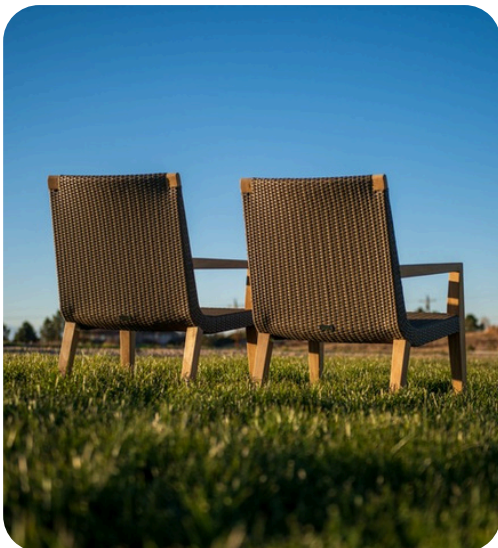
of District residents completed the Community Survey, a strong return rate for a community of our size!

Additionally, over 150 comments were collected at community meetings & pop-up events.

Work Sessions for Plan Development



- Ad Hoc Committee for Strategic Plan
- Board of Director Work Sessions
- Monthly SPAC/Board Meetings





What We Heard:

Community participants provided feedback on each element of the Strategic Plan.

Priorities for the Future and What You Value Most About Inspiration Metro District



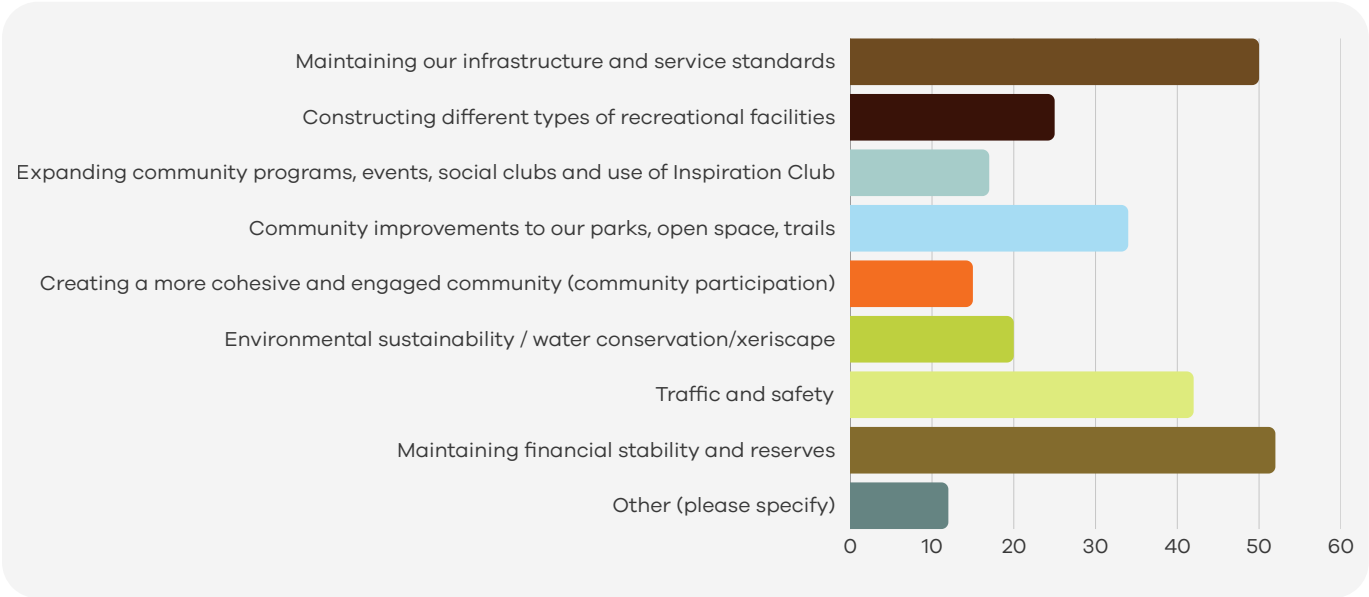
Plant trees and native landscaping, remove grass and reduce our water dependency.



Increase traffic safety by controlling cut through traffic, enforcement and more stop signs.



Maintain financial stability while managing the increasing cost of services and the desire to improve facilities and amenities.



Making everyone feel involved in the community and our “bigger family”. Having people take pride in the community where they live.



Fiscal responsibility and open communication/engagement. Listen to the homeowners.



Bringing the community physically together through increased use of our community facilities, parks, and trails.



Vision & Mission



Vision Statement

We are a welcoming and engaged community that provides a safe, beautifully maintained environment where residents truly feel at home.



Mission Statement

The Inspiration Metropolitan District strives to improve the quality of life for residents and fosters a highly desirable community identity by following efficient, ethical and fiscally responsible practices.

Guiding Principles



The Inspiration Metro District’s Guiding Principles define the core values and standards that shape how the District governs, makes decisions, and serves the community.

They act as a north star for the Board of Directors, Committees, and partners. They inform priorities, guide conduct and behavior, and ensure that policies, investments, and daily actions are aligned with the long-term vision and best interests of the residents.

■ Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

We practice transparent fiscal stewardship by maintaining reserves, budgeting wisely, managing costs, and following standard accounting protocols to strengthen the IMD community’s well-being.

■ Welcome, Include and Engage Residents

We foster an inclusive, connected community by encouraging participation and volunteerism, welcoming diverse perspectives, and ensuring every voice is valued.

■ Aspire to be a Model of Environmental Responsibility

We promote environmental responsibility through water conservation, open space preservation, robust recycling programs, climate-appropriate landscaping, and legislative advocacy.

■ Preserve the Character of the Community

We work with residents to apply covenant and guideline requirements, promote community safety, champion IMD’s priorities with partner agencies, and surrounding local governments.

Strategic Priorities



“Strategic priorities define the District’s long-term focus, ensuring that decisions, investments, and initiatives over the next five years remain aligned with the community’s vision.”

The Strategic Plan is organized around a set of five Strategic Priorities that reflect the District’s most important areas of focus over the coming years. These priorities represent what matters most to the community and where the District will concentrate its efforts and resources.

Each Strategic Priority is supported by a series of goals and initiatives. Goals describe the outcomes the District is working toward, while initiatives identify the key actions and projects that will move the District toward achieving those outcomes.

Together, they provide a clear roadmap for how priorities will be advanced and how progress will be made over time. Goals and initiatives help translate community priorities into action. They guide decision-making, inform annual work planning and budgeting, and provide a framework for measuring progress. As implementation of projects begins and community needs evolve, additional initiatives may be added or adjusted to ensure alignment with the long-term priorities established in this plan.



Figure 3: Inspiration Metropolitan District Strategic Priorities

Goals & Initiatives



For each strategic priority, goals and initiatives have been designed to identify how strategic priorities will be advanced and what the District plans to do in order to address that priority.



Promote & Support Community Engagement

GOAL 1: Expand communication, and education events with residents.

GOAL 2: Increase residents understanding of the Inspiration Metro District.

GOAL 3: Increase awareness and coordination across the community to enhance utilization of resources and participation in activities.

ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS	INITIATIVES
1.1	Organize recurring in-person gatherings across the Inspiration Metro District neighborhoods to share District updates, events, and activities and to strengthen resident connections across neighborhoods.
1.2	Strengthen communications across the District by coordinating with the Hilltop Club to encourage more information sharing about meetings, events and District wide decisions that impact all residents. Distribute communication updates and calendar links through newsletters and email blasts to increase resident awareness across neighborhoods.
2.1	Establish a volunteer-based Welcoming Committee that reaches out to new residents within the Metro District in order to educate & improve communication with IMD residents.
2.2	Implement education-focused communication to clarify covenants and guidelines, promote compliance, and reduce enforcement actions.
2.3	Produce and publish a series of 1–2 minute educational videos on the District’s website to explain key district-related topics, improve resident understanding, and reduce confusion.
3.1	Distribute a community events survey to gather resident feedback on event preferences, interests, and engagement opportunities. Utilize survey results to guide inclusive, resident-driven programming that increases participation, satisfaction, and overall community engagement.

Goals & Initiatives



Exercise Long-term Financial Discipline & Planning

GOAL 1: Maintain a high percentage of reserve funds.

GOAL 2: Continue to demonstrate transparency to the community.

GOAL 3: Create a long-term capital projects plan.

GOAL 4: Create a three (3)-year financial plan.

ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS

INITIATIVES

1.1

Create a list of yearly required expenditures for years 1-3 from the reserve study, during the annual budgeting process for 2027, to ensure assets are being cared for.

2.1

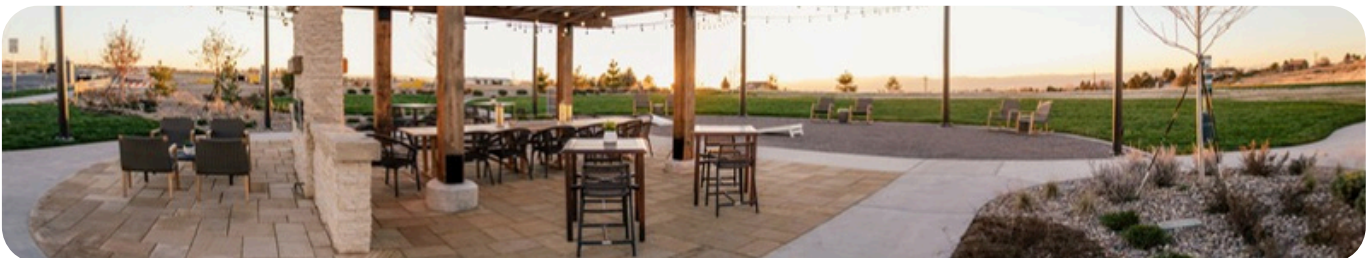
Post bid guidelines and vendor management documents on the District website and share them through a community e-blast to improve transparency and help residents understand how the District conducts business.

2.2

Enhance financial transparency by implementing a clear communications and education plan that explains the District's budget, reserves, and long-term capital strategy. Utilize the plan to help residents better understand District finances and strengthen trust in financial decisions.

4.1

Use the District's current year line-item budget to develop a budget forecast for the next three years.



Goals & Initiatives



Advocate Internally & Externally to Maintain Public Safety

GOAL 1: Develop working relationships with Aurora Police Department (APD) and other partner agencies.

GOAL 2: Communicate & encourage implementation of best practices for public safety.

GOAL 3: Provide continuous education about covenant guidelines to reduce violations.

ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS

INITIATIVES

1.1

Establish a working relationship with the Aurora Police Department by hosting quarterly community meet-and-greet events with a department representative to support ongoing coordination and collaboration.

1.2

Work with the City of Aurora department responsible for the Piney Creek Trail to obtain an update on the project's status, timeline, and anticipated completion date.

1.3

Build & strengthen relationships with local elected officials and regulatory agencies through informal meetings to support coordination and advance district priorities such as neighborhood and traffic safety.

1.4

Share monthly, District-wide public safety and risk management messages through e-blasts and web site updates to increase resident awareness, and reduce risk across the community.



Goals & Initiatives



Maintain & Improve Community Infrastructure & Amenities

GOAL 1: Explore feasibility of, and interest in additional amenities, parks and recreation.

GOAL 2: Create an Operations and Maintenance Plan for environmentally responsible, high-quality amenities without compromising standards.

GOAL 3: Create an Open Space Management Plan.

ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS

INITIATIVES

1.1

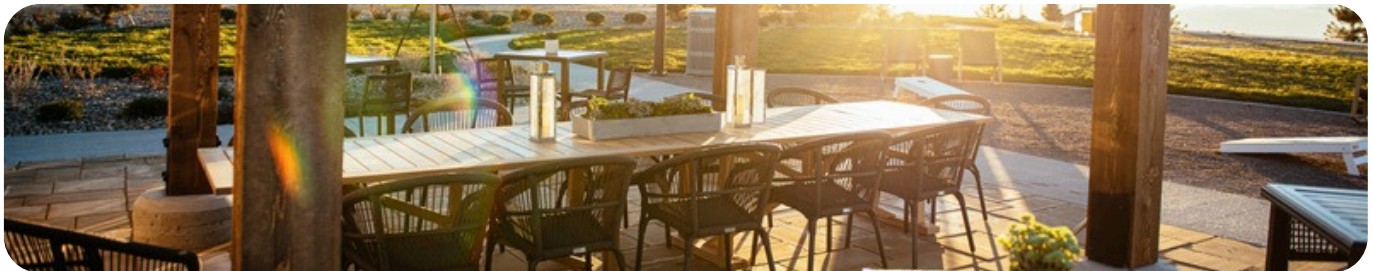
Complete a focused community engagement process and District wide survey to assess interest in additional amenities, parks, and recreational opportunities. Include a discussion of potential costs for items that were identified during the strategic planning process. Share results with the Board to inform feasibility and financial evaluation, without committing the District to implementation.

2.1

Consider developing a master plan that identifies current and future service needs, associated capital and operational requirements, and funding considerations to inform budgeting, capital planning, and long-term financial decisions.

3.1

Develop and adopt an Open Space Management Plan that defines maintenance standards, responsibilities, and priorities for District-owned open space areas. Utilize the plan to guide contractor oversight, budgeting, and long-term financial planning.



Goals & Initiatives



Advance Environmental Initiatives

GOAL 1: Explore robust recycling.

GOAL 2: Enhance water conservation via irrigation and waterwise practice.

GOAL 3: Continue wildfire risk management in the community and promote best practices.

GOAL 4: Ensure long term landscape sustainability.

ALIGNMENT WITH GOALS	INITIATIVES
1.1	Implement a community composting program and track monthly participation to evaluate long term viability and sustainability.
1.2	Implement a unified community sustainability initiative that formally allows compost bins within covenant guidelines and hosts at least one rain barrel education and rebate event. Monitor resident participation and evaluate whether it produces measurable progress toward achieving the District’s long-term water conservation and waste reduction goals.
2.1	Reduce water use and irrigation demands by identifying and converting high-water-use turf areas and making phased drought-tolerant landscaping improvements.
3.1	Launch a High Plains Living and Resilience education event in partnership with local experts to promote waterwise landscaping, native plant adoption, and best practices for wildfire mitigation/fire safety. Evaluate annually for continued implementation.
4.1	Replace dead or failing trees with drought-tolerant species and track survival to support long-term landscape sustainability.

Implementation Phasing & 2026 Projects & Initiatives



Development of the Inspiration Metropolitan District’s first Strategic Plan represents an important milestone for the District and its residents. The plan was developed through an eight-month engagement process to identify shared priorities and guide future investments.

To support effective implementation of the Strategic Plan, the District has organized goals into phases. These phases reflect the anticipated sequencing of work and are informed by

community feedback and Board input, ensuring a deliberate and manageable approach to implementation (see Table 1).

While Phase 1 goals will be advanced first and others will follow, all goals remain equally important to the District’s future. Ongoing Activities are those goals that have already been initiated and will continue throughout the Plan term.

Phase	Goal	
Phase 1	Increase residents understanding of IMD.	TOP 5 GOALS FOR 2026
	Communicate & encourage implementation of best practices for public safety.	
	Explore feasibility/interest of additional amenities, parks and recreation.	
	Ensure long term landscape sustainability.	
	Create a 3-year financial plan.	
Phase 2	Expand communication, and education events with residents.	
	Create Operations / Maintenance plan for environmentally responsible, high-quality amenities without compromising standards.	
	Develop working relationships with Aurora Police Department (APD) and other partner agencies.	
	Enhance water conservation via irrigation and water-wise practice.	
	Create a long-term capital projects plan (>\$5,000).	
	Increase social calendar coverage of the community.	
Phase 3	Create an Open Space Management Plan.	
	Continuous education about covenant guidelines to reduce violations.	
	Continue wildfire risk management in the community and promote best practices.	
Ongoing Activities	Explore robust recycling (Project): compost and yard waste programs	
	Continually seek best-value from the district’s vendors.	
	Continue to demonstrate transparency to the community (communications).	
	Maintain a high percentage of reserve funds.	

Table 1: Phased Implementation Approach

■ Positioning the District for Action

Implementation will begin in 2026 with Phase 1 goals and initiatives, advancing several of the highest-priority projects identified through community engagement and from the Board of Directors’ review (see Table 2).



Strategic Priority	Goal	Initiative	Responsible Committee
Promote & Support Community Engagement	Increase residents’ understanding of the Inspiration Metro District.	Establish a volunteer-based Welcoming Committee that provides outreach and information to new residents within the Metro District in order to educate and improve communication with residents.	Community Engagement Committee
		Implement education-focused communications to clarify covenants and guidelines, promote compliance, and reduce enforcement actions.	Community Engagement Committee, Residential Improvement Committee
		Produce and publish a series of 1–2-minute educational videos on the Inspiration Metro District’s website to explain key district-related topics, improve resident understanding, and reduce confusion.	Community Engagement Committee
Maintain & Improve Community Infrastructure & Amenities	Explore feasibility of, and interest of additional amenities, parks and recreation.	Complete a focused community engagement process and District wide survey to assess interest in additional amenities, parks, and recreational opportunities, including a discussion of potential costs for items that were identified during the strategic planning process. Share results with the Board to inform feasibility and financial evaluation, without committing the District to implementation.	Common Area Committee
Advocate Internally & Externally to Maintain Public Safety	Communicate & encourage implementation of best practices for public safety.	Share monthly, District-wide public safety and risk management messages through e-blasts and website updates to increase resident awareness and reduce risk across the community.	Community Engagement Committee
Advance Environmental Initiatives	Ensure long term landscape sustainability.	Replace dead or failing trees with drought-tolerant species and track survival to support long-term landscape sustainability.	Common Area Committee, Management Company Support
Exercise Long-term Financial Discipline & Planning	Create a 3-year financial plan.	Use the IMD current year line-item budget to develop a budget forecast for next three years.	Finance Committee, Management Company Support

Table 2: Inspiration Metro District Strategic Plan Implementation Phase 1 Goals & Initiatives for 2026

■ Positioning the District for Action

“Provide regular communications and engage with all Inspiration Metro District residents before decisions are made and money is spent.”

Responsibility for advancing specific goals and initiatives will be assigned to the District’s standing committees based on subject matter and aligned with specific Committee focus areas. Committees will help evaluate initiatives, identify implementation priorities, and recommend appropriate timelines.

Committee recommendations will inform Board decisions related to budgeting, resource allocation, and any services or contracts needed to advance strategic initiatives.

The District will also provide regular updates to residents through Board of Director Meetings, the District website, e-blasts, newsletters, and other communication channels. These updates will help residents understand how the priorities identified during the planning process are being translated into projects, programs, and improvements across the community.

Together, these practices will help ensure the Strategic Plan remains an active guide for advancing the District’s long-term priorities.



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