



# Land Use Code Update Adopted by Fruita City Council

For the past year and a half, the City of Fruita has been in the process of updating its Land Use Code and Design Standards for residential and commercial development. The update was recently adopted by the Fruita City Council and the changes reflect the vision, goals and values set forth by the community in the Comprehensive Master Plan *Fruita in Motion*. The Comprehensive Plan was formally adopted by the Fruita City Council in February of 2020. The values and goals identified in *Fruita in Motion* were a result of community feedback during the extensive year-long engagement process that took place in 2019. While creating the plan, the City of Fruita hosted over 30 in-person public engagement opportunities in addition to online exchanges and we genuinely appreciate the invaluable input we received


from residents, businesses and partners.

The Land Use Code update reflects the very same public engagement and the community's vision for Fruita for the next decade. The update focused on zoning uses and

general requirements, the official zoning map for the City, density bonuses, design standards, parking standards and short-term rentals. These amendments to the Land Use Code not only make the Code more consistent with

the Community Plan, but also simplify the development process by incorporating administrative flexibility.

To learn more about the Land Use Code update and other Planning and Development items in the City of Fruita, you can visit [fruita.org/cd](http://fruita.org/cd). At this page, you can find the updated Community Plan, current development projects, building permit information and more. In addition, the presentation that was given to the City Council can also be found on this page under the tab, "Fruita Land Use Code."

If you have any questions, feel free to email [communications@fruita.org](mailto:communications@fruita.org). Thank you to all of the members of the public that participated in these and other Master Plan updates and to the City's consultant for the project, Design Workshop. 



**Fruita City Council:** If calling City Hall at 858-3663 does not answer your questions, please feel free to contact any of your City Council members.



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# COVID-19 Update

Unfortunately, over the past several weeks in Mesa County, the number of total cases, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 have been increasingly significant. To protect ourselves and our community, we continue to recommend these best practices to limit the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases. Thank you Fruita!

To prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases, you can:

- Avoid the three Cs:
  - ✓ Closed spaces with poor ventilation
  - ✓ Crowded places with many people nearby
  - ✓ Closed-contact settings such as conversations in close proximity to others
- Maintain a bike's distance apart from those outside of your household.
- Accessorize with a mask.
- Keep it clean and wash those hands frequently.
- Take the COVID test – it's easy and fast!
- Just stay home if you are not feeling well.
- If you are interested, get vaccinated! Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the pandemic. 📍

## Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Are you interested in becoming more involved in your local government? The City of Fruita is always accepting applications for resident volunteers to serve on many of the City's Boards and Commissions. These groups play an important role by providing information and recommending policies to staff and the City Council. Currently, there are several openings on many of the City's Boards and Commissions. To find more information and an online application, you can visit our website at [fruita.org/bc](http://fruita.org/bc) 📍

## CITY EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *Marc Mancuso* Parks & Recreation Director

In November, Marc Mancuso joined the City of Fruita as the new Parks and Recreation Director. Marc is a native of the Western Slope and has spent almost 20 years working in various parks roles. Before coming to Fruita, Marc worked as the Sports Facilities Supervisor for the City of Grand Junction and oversaw Stocker Stadium, Suplizio Field and Canyon View Park. As Parks and Recreation Director for Fruita, Marc will oversee a number of different programs and departments including the Fruita Community Center, Recreation, Parks, and Open Space and Trails.

When discussing the position, Marc shared, "It is exciting to be a native of the Grand Valley and to be able to step into this role. Fruita is really making a name for itself on the Western Slope, and it is going to be a lot of fun to be a part of it and work on all of the priority projects that have been identified in recently adopted Master Plans."

Mike Bennett, City Manager



for Fruita, commented that "Marc is going to be an excellent addition to the City's leadership team, and we are excited to have his knowledge and expertise as we begin to implement many of these long-range plans. We know that the community and our

organization are going to benefit greatly from Marc's leadership of the department."

Outside of work, Marc enjoys mountain biking, hiking, photography and volunteering for community events. Welcome Marc! 📍



## City Election News 2022

The next regular City election will be held on April 5, 2022. The election will be conducted by mail ballot and ballots will be sent out to registered voters in mid-March 2022. The ballot will include the election of one Mayor for a two-year term and three City Council members for four-year terms each.

### CITY COUNCIL AND MAYOR

This is a great time to start thinking about getting involved in the Fruita community as an elected official. The best part about local politics is that you really do get to make a difference in the place that you live.

The City of Fruita is a Home Rule City with a Council-Manager form of government. The six-member elected City Council makes policy decisions and enacts legislation while a professional City Manager carries out the Council's policies and administers the city government. The Mayor

is the political head of city government, presiding over City Council meetings, representing the City at public functions and exercising other powers. For additional information on Mayor and City Council terms of office and powers and duties, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (970) 858-3663.

In order to be eligible to hold office as Mayor or as a member of the City Council, you must be at least 21 years old and a registered voter residing in the City of Fruita. Nomination petitions for the Council and Mayor positions may be picked up at the City Clerk's office on or after January 4, 2022. The nomination petition requires signatures from 25 registered voters of the City of Fruita. Completed petitions must be filed with the Fruita City Clerk's Office by January 24, 2022. Additional information is available from the City Clerk's office.

## Fruita Police Department Now on Neighbors



We are excited to announce that the Fruita Police Department has joined in partnering with the Neighbors Public Safety Service app (by Ring). Neighbors allows us to connect with residents to improve safety in our community. It will serve as another tool to send and request information regarding recent crime trends as well as allow you to share photos, videos and information with us. You do not need a Ring device to join Neighbors; anyone with a smartphone can download the Neighbors App in order to receive updates and have the option to post photos or videos from any device. If you already have too many apps, we will still share important crime and safety information on the City's Facebook page. Neighbors will just be another way for us to work together in preventing crime!

## Save Time and Money by Signing up for Automatic Payments for Utility Bills

As a reminder, the City of Fruita offers several convenient ways to pay your utility bill. Residents can pay online at Fruita.org and in person at the Fruita Civic Center, but a small convenience fee is applied if the payment is made with a credit/debit card. To save time and money, residents can sign up for automatic and recurring payments from a designated bank account. Your payment will be

automatically deducted from your account on the 5th of each month (or the day after if the 5th falls on a weekend or a holiday).

To learn more about each payment method and how to sign up for automatic or reoccurring payments, you can visit our website at [fruita.org/utilitypayments](http://fruita.org/utilitypayments).

## Reminder from the Fruita Police Department — Lock Your Vehicles

Over the summer, the Fruita Police Department continued to see an increase of theft from vehicles, most of which were left unlocked. This is typical with warmer weather as there is more activity at night. As a reminder, the Police Department encourages you to always keep

vehicles locked and to report any suspicious activity immediately. Do not hesitate to call the non-emergency dispatch line at (970) 242-6707 if you do see anything suspicious. As always, thank you for being our community partners in preventing and solving crime.



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## Upcoming Activities

December 15, 2021	Cookies-n-Claus	6 pm	Fruita Community Center	Wear your PJ's and enjoy a short film, story and photos with Santa!
December 17, 2021	Fruita Youth Action Council Movie Night	7 pm	Fruita Community Center	Featured Movie: Polar Express, 6th -12th grade students welcome – FREE!
January 15, 2022	Denver Nuggets Skills Challenge	9 am	Fruita Community Center	Basketball Skills Competition for ages 6 - 13 years old
February 11, 2022	Sweet Heart 5k/10k Run	9 am - 1pm	Fruita Community Center	5k/10k run
TBA	Easter Egg Scramble	4:30 pm	Fruita Community Center	The Fruita Community Center backyard will be full of plastic eggs for kids 6 and under.
TBA	Arbor Day	TBA	TBA	Kids crafts, tree planting and educational resources