

An aerial photograph of Boulder, Colorado, showing a mix of urban buildings and natural mountain scenery. In the foreground, there are several multi-story buildings, some with green and white striped awnings. A park area with a gazebo and a green-roofed structure is visible. The middle ground is filled with trees showing autumn foliage in shades of yellow and orange. In the background, large, rugged mountains rise under a clear blue sky. A large white circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text 'Boulder Colorado' in white. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

# Boulder Colorado



## Existing Context

- Prosperous small town of 100,000
- Highly educated population
- Diverse economic base - universities, federal research labs, tech startups, “silicon valley” of organic foods
- Consistently rated one of the best places in the United States to live, work, or play
- Internationally known for progressive land use planning, open space preservation, dual use greenways/floodways
- Arid climate
- Steep elevation gradient to the west



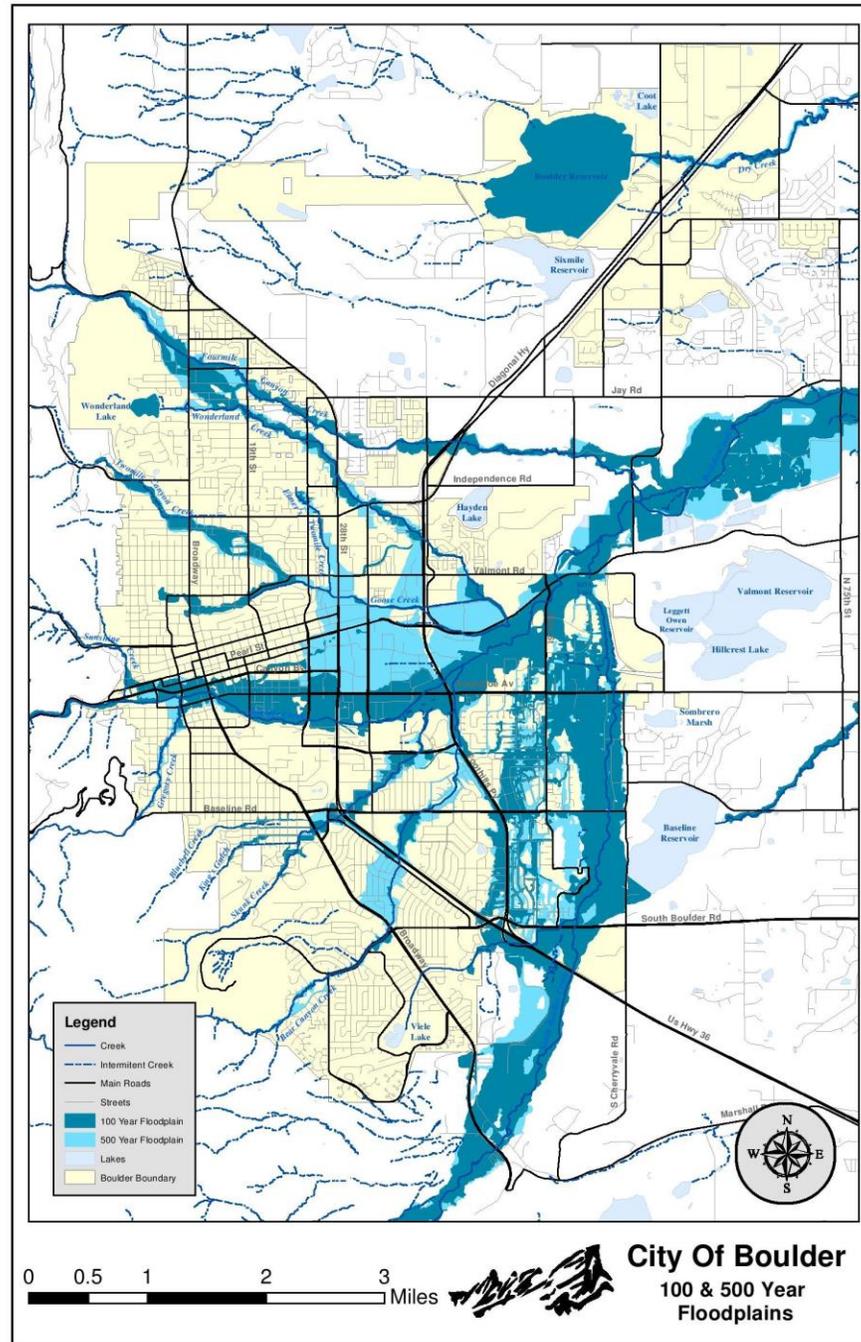
## Threats and Hazards

- Highest flash flood risk in Colorado
- Rapidly changing forest and alpine ecosystems
- High year round wildfire danger
- Exposure to global economic downturns
- Traditional major shock trauma and hazmat incidents



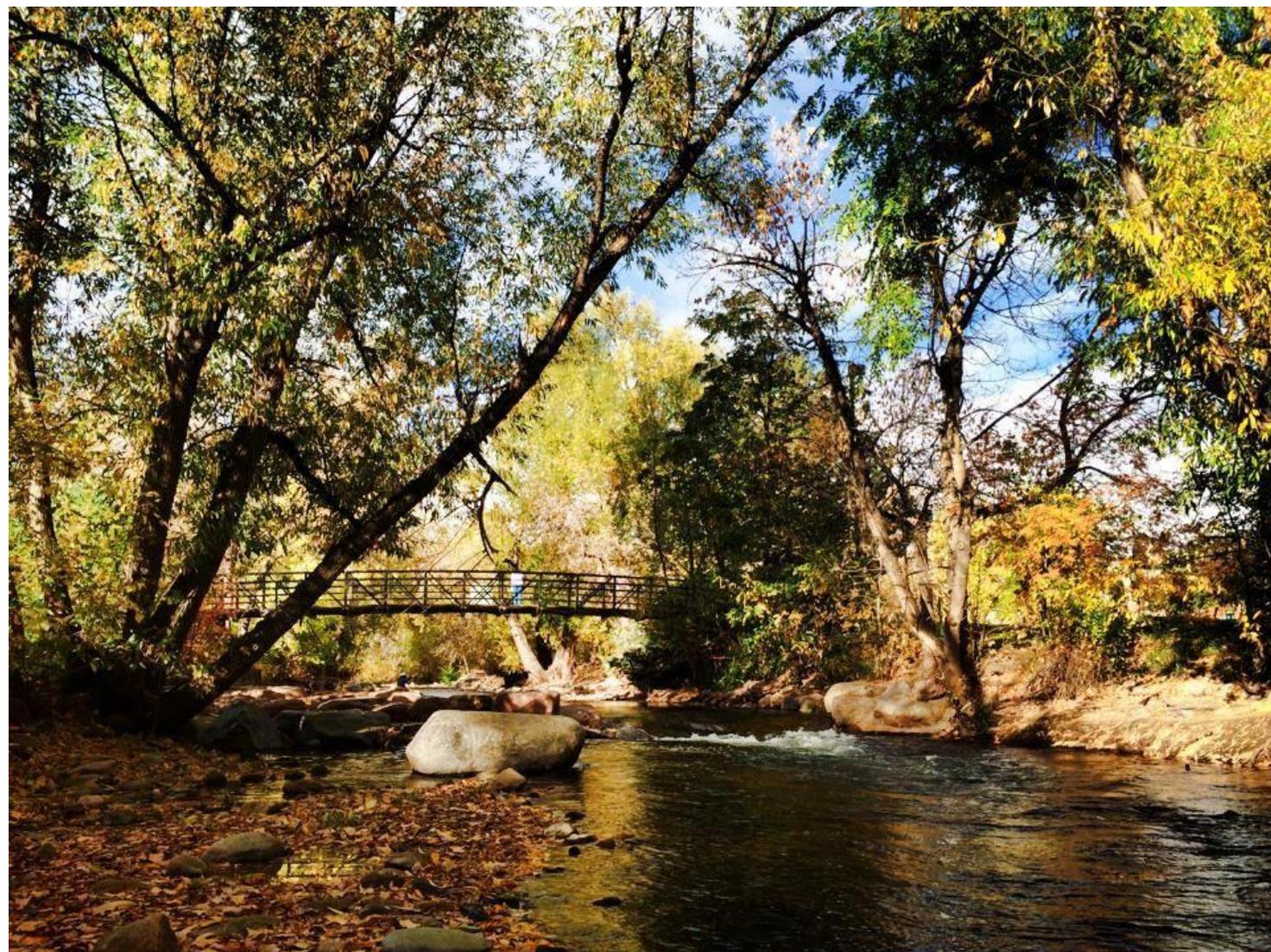
## 2013 Flood

- 8 days of rain, nearly the average annual total - 18"
- 1000 year precipitation event but only a 100 year flood event
- Access to mountain communities was severed along 6 of 7 canyons
- \$300million in private property damage, \$27million in municipal property, only \$14million is reimbursable
- Not a flash flood or the event we were preparing for
- Preceded by major wildfires in 2010 and 2011



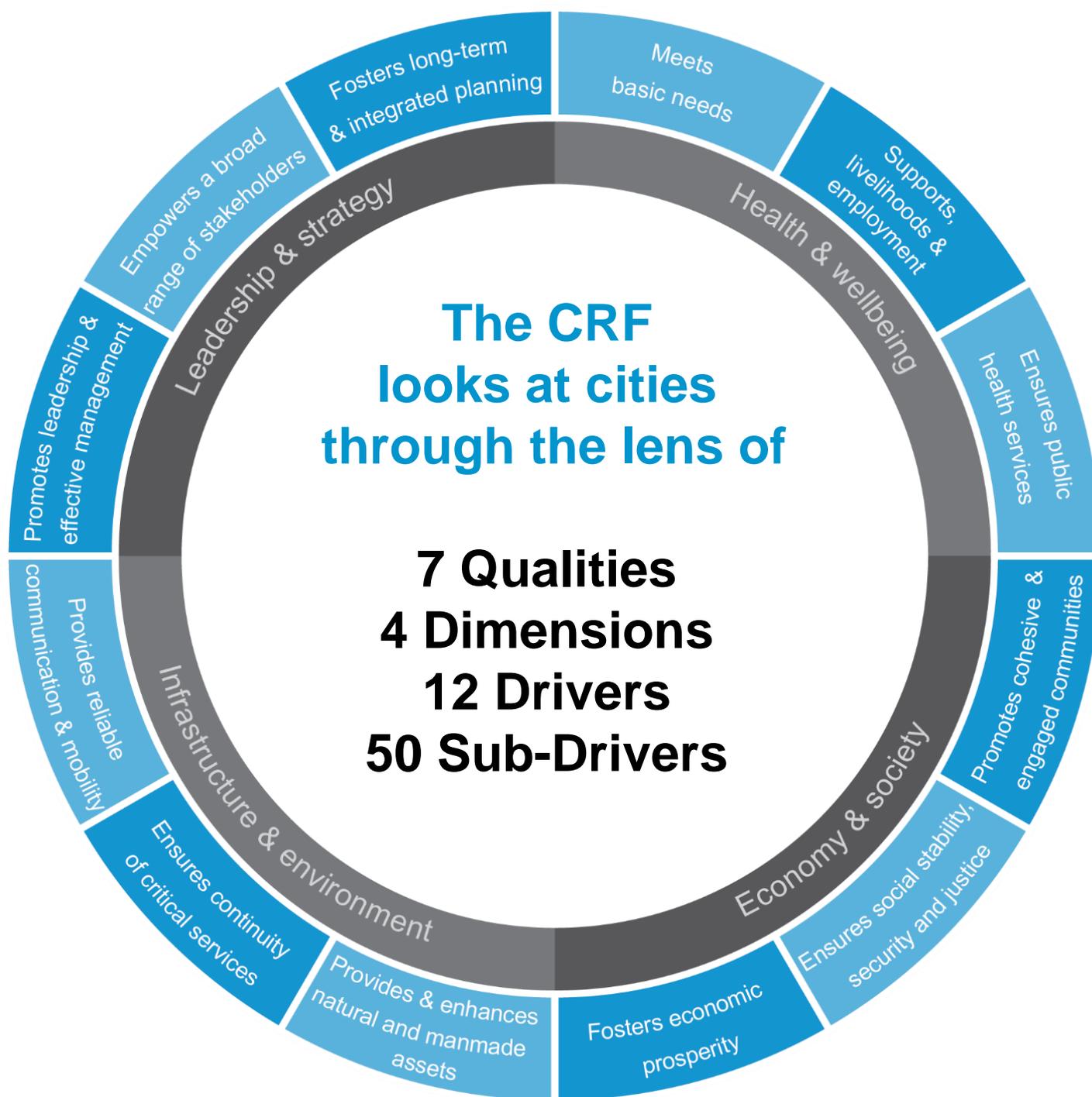
## 2013 Flood #2

- Green infrastructure is vital but not reimbursable!
- Ground water intrusion was completely unexpected
- Role of the open space boundary in transportation fragility, mutual aid, a major shock trauma care
- Need for flexible municipal staffing and financial mechanisms
- Reinforcement of core principles: know your neighbor, have a plan, know your risk
- Rapid public burn out and return to complacency



## Resilience Planning in Boulder

- Building on a legacy of 30+ years of progressive land use planning and floodplain management
- Expanding the concept to include more social and economic dimensions of risk and vulnerability
- Incorporating resilience principles into the 2015 update of the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan and the Human Services Master Plan
- Producing a 'Resilience Strategy' as part of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Global Campaign



## 100 Resilient Cities

- Chief Resilience Officer
- Platform Technical Partners
- Global Network of Peer Cities

