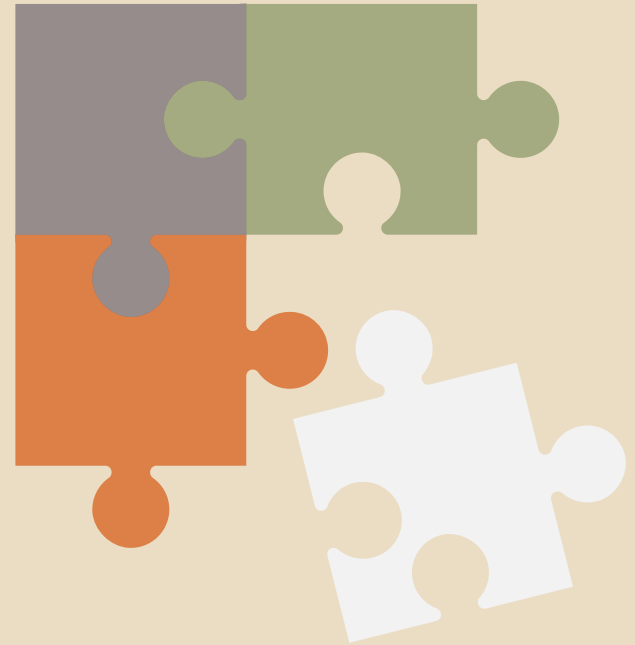


# Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project

*Pueblo, Colorado*



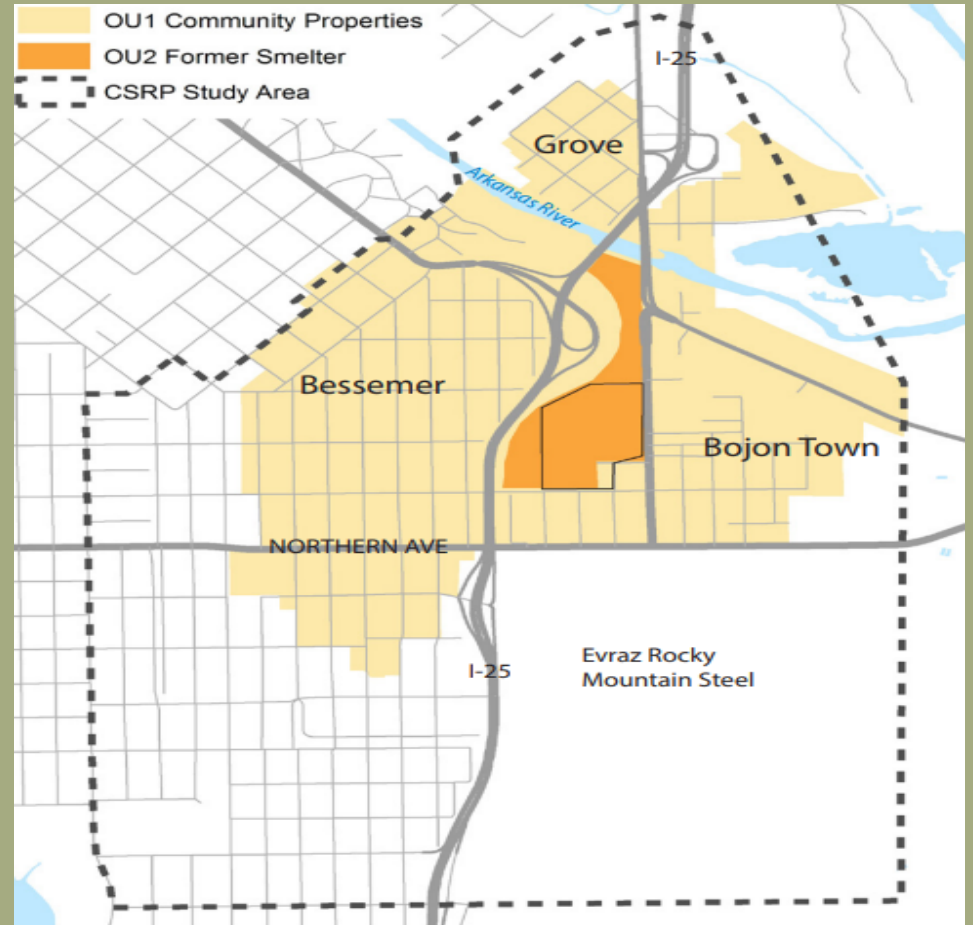
**Fran Costanzi**

Superfund Redevelopment Program Coordinator

EPA Region 8

# Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project

## Pueblo, Colorado



# Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project

## *Pueblo, Colorado*

### Project Goals:

- Support neighborhood revitalization around the Colorado Smelter area.
- Coordinate and leverage investments among local, state and federal agencies.
- Build on earlier planning efforts including outcomes from the 2016 Superfund Community Visioning Workshop and the 2017 Building Blocks Workshop.
- Inform EPA cleanup, the City's neighborhood plan update and the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) health disparities grant for an improved built environment.



# Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project

## Pueblo, Colorado

### Community Goals:

- Connectivity
- Affordable housing
- Vibrant commercial

### Outcomes:

- July 2019: Colorado Smelter Superfund Site Revitalization Plan is published.
- October 2020: The City of Pueblo adopted the Revitalization Plan.
- March 2021: EPA awarded a \$50,000 grant to support urban agriculture.



## REVITALIZATION PLAN

Colorado Smelter Superfund Site  
Pueblo, Colorado

JULY 2019

### INTRODUCTION

#### The Community

The Bessemer, Eilers Heights/Bojon Town and Grove neighborhoods grew up around the steelworks industry in the late 1800s, attracting diverse immigrants from all over the world, including Italy, Slovenia and Mexico. Many remnants of a former factory town are present today including the small Minnequa Town Company cottage housing, churches, family restaurants, neighborhood bars, historic buildings, and a rich collection of ethnically diverse cultures. Despite these neighborhood treasures, the area currently suffers from a significant lack of investment in housing, infrastructure, services and economic development. In 1950, the construction of I-25 divided the neighborhood. Decades of smelting also resulted in contaminated soil throughout the area. Challenges include concerns about crime, small and aging housing stock, sidewalks in disrepair and a partially vacant commercial district. The community is eager for reinvestment to revive resident quality of life, celebrate their rich cultural heritage and support the local economy. In addition, the City of Pueblo will coordinate with the Colorado Coalition for Homeless to provide continued care and address the needs of homeless populations.

#### The Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project

In 2014, the EPA designated the Colorado Smelter Superfund site due to high levels of arsenic and lead at the former Smelter Facility and slag pile (Operable Unit 2), and in soils throughout much of the surrounding community properties (Operable Unit 1). While residential soil cleanup has been progressing, EPA sponsored the Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project (CSRP), a collaboration of local, state and federal agencies to support revitalization of the area. The CSRP, with support from EPA's Superfund Redevelopment Initiative, sponsored a community planning process resulting in a collaborative vision to guide future investment and revitalization. CSRP goals include:

- Support neighborhood revitalization around the Colorado Smelter area.
- Coordinate and leverage investments among local, state and federal agencies.
- Build on earlier planning efforts including outcomes from the 2016 Superfund Community Visioning Workshop and the 2017 Building Blocks Workshop.
- Inform EPA cleanup, the City's neighborhood plan update and the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE) health disparities grant for an improved built environment.

#### Revitalization Themes

On October 30, 2018, the CSRP hosted a community visioning workshop to identify revitalization strategies around the following three themes:

1. Connectivity and Cultural Heritage (see page 2)
2. Thriving Neighborhoods (see page 6)
3. Vibrant Commercial (see page 8)

This report summarizes the outcomes of the visioning session including revitalization goals, strategies, implementation examples and resources.

Funded by EPA Region 8 and the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative

The CSRP study area encompasses and extends beyond areas supported by the Superfund cleanup including the Bessemer, Grove and Eilers neighborhoods.

The Colorado Smelter Revitalization Project (CSRP) includes the following participating entities:

- City of Pueblo
- Pueblo County
- Pueblo Dept. of Public Health and Environment
- NeighborWorks
- Colorado Smelter Community Advisory Group
- CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment
- CO Dept. of Transportation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Dept. of Transportation
- U.S. Housing and Urban Development
- Evraz Rocky Mountain Steel