

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board

Agenda

**April 2, 2025
CITY HALL
749 Main Street
Spruce Room First Floor
6:30 PM**

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- You can call in to **+1 408 638 0968 or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)**, Webinar ID # 885 1622 9475
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/pplab

The Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Board prior to the meeting at AMcneal@LouisvilleCO.gov.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
- VI. Comprehensive Plan – memo vote
- VII. Removal of Milkweed from weed list discussion
- VIII. Budget consideration for 2026

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 303 335-4536 or 303.335.4574 or clerksoffice@LouisvilleCO.gov . A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574 or email Clerksoffice@louisvilleco.gov

IX. Board Report

X. Staff Report

- Transformation Landscape Grant award
- Arboretum improvements
- Arbor Day April 18, 2025

XI. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

XII. Adjourn

Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 6:30pm
Library 1st Floor Meeting Room
951 Spruce St.

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair, Jody Ash at 6:30 PM

II. Roll Call

Present:

Ash, Jody, Chair
Buck, Signe Maria
Denat, Julien, Co-Chair
Kelsey, Kathy, Co-Secretary
Kutscher, Gene, remote by phone
Webb, John, Secretary
McNeal, Abby, Parks Superintendent (remote)
Erik Swiatek, Present

Absent:

None

III. Approval of Agenda

Moved, seconded and Approved

IV. Approval of Minutes

Moved, seconded and approved

V. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Acknowledgement of visiting students from Monarch High

Tamar Krantz email, see email sent to PPLAB members.

Ms. Krantz spoke about concerns of population growth projections for Louisville and options described in Comprehensive Plan to accommodate projected growth. Ms. Kantz requested that PPLAB suggest modifications to the Comprehensive Plan that would focus on smaller growth targets, support creation of additional features in the Comprehensive Plan that reference and support recommendations of the PROS Master Plan, support public land dedications rather than fee-in-lieu for new development projects, discourage use of reduced public land dedication requirements as incentives for inclusionary housing, support improvement of biodiversity by including reduced footprint for increased height developments, PPLAB designation of specific locations for protection of biodiversity, Allow for re-designation of areas zoned for commercial to mixed use and residential, exchange of park and public plazas for consideration of re-zoning to commercial, and consideration of underground parking for commercial areas to allow for pedestrian scale use versus parking areas.

VI. Comprehensive Plan- Jeff Hirt Planning Manager

Review of Comprehensive Plan by Jeff Hirt:

(SEE PACKET)

Planning Manager Hirt introduced the Comprehensive Plan which Lays out strategic plans for design in in the public realm, including streetscaping, which is the purview of PPLAB, and includes many environmental and sustainability policies that are intended to guide future maintenance, development and growth of parks, open space and infrastructure in Louisville.

The Comprehensive Plan had its first review last year, with the objectives of promoting sustainability and biodiversity, to address future growth, foster more residential development in some parts of the city, and to address landscape design in commercial areas.

The project kicked off a year ago with community engagement, including a vision statement core values, future growth, etc.

City Council has expressed a desire to add new residential development in the commercial McCaslin corridor in view of expectations for population growth (see in Meeting Packet). The map highlights “Opportunity areas” that are most likely to change in the future. The remainder of the community is expected to remain more stable.

Environmental sustainability and decarbonization are key objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, which includes water conservation, but no tree canopy 2025-03-19 protection. Police, fire, and essential city are expected to match population growth.

PPLAB Question: Why does the Comprehensive Plan show continued population growth? How do we expect to maintain Louisville’s small-town feel?

Planning Mgr. Hirt: The Denver metro area and Front Range corridor are expected to see continued growth pressure in the future. Louisville has lost population over the last several years. The lack of growth results, in reduced school enrollment and other problems. Louisville can expect 500 – 600 residential units in change areas. Our sales tax from commercial sector is not growing, can we develop western McCaslin corridor for more residential occupation?

PPLAB Question: Could PPLAB include guidelines re: ratio of population to Parks growth?

Hirt: There are ways to expand parks in future to account for increases in population (PROS Plan more specifics).

PPLAB Question: REC Advisory board sent out survey to Community about what was lacking in Rec facilities. Respondents were very concerned that we are outgrowing the facilities (Tennis, Pickleball, etc.). Louisville is currently above average in amenities. We need to maintain our above-average rec facility availability; it is one of the things that make Louisville so attractive!

PPLAB: Wishes that a Maintenance plan be included in Comprehensive Plan that would use Development/use/impact fees to be directly budgeted to improvements and maintenance of parks to address impacts of population growth.

PPLAB: Is the Golf course club house project included in City Council discretionary spending?

PPLAB: Wishes to continue renovation of arboretum, maintenance of tree canopy, would like to see these better defined in Comprehensive Plan.

Hirt: Going forward, Planning Dept to continue to work with feedback and final drafting of Comprehensive Plan, with June public viewing of draft plan, adoption by City Council scheduled for Late June.

Public comment from Ms. Krantz: Thanks for great ideas so far in tonight's discussion, would like to see something concrete to keep same ratio of acres of parks or amenities going forwards. We can't take this as a given. Community members expressed desire for lower growth scenario (Scenario A), but City Council is considering higher growth targets (Scenario's B and C)!

Are there specific areas that will be parks? They need to be added to map now, rather than wait for the future.

Hirt: No target number for growth in Comprehensive Plan. Plan is targeting areas that would be appropriate for residential, with uncertain amount of growth in future, not baked into the plan. Closest future growth number is derived from a share of anticipated BoCo population growth. Our share of State projections used for proportional growth would be a possible 2700 units if we stay the course of continued population growth.

PLAB: Are there some approved developments south of Gravity Brewing parallel to Hwy 42, 50 to 60 units? And what about the Snarfs/Union Jack's liquor store back area? 2,000 units is 1/3 increase of current population, which is a ludicrous target with a larger impact that we are planning on. Will there be a budget for more parks and recognition of the need to include park lands.

HIRT: CU purchase of the Cinnabar property is planned for affordable housing for CU staff and maybe students. We can expect an influx from that and the impact of HB 1313 which requires area cities to incorporate more housing within city limits.

PPLAB: Sustainability requires creating housing for workers already here, rather than attracting more people. More housing and more pavement are against sustainability. Need to make water saving choices. Recommend to City Council lowest growth rate target.

PPLAB: Memo suggested, include specific areas in Comprehensive Plan for parks as follows:

PPLAB Statement regarding Comprehensive Plan: PPLAB wishes to express desire for lowest growth option as described, to include recommendations that designated area for parks be included in opportunity zones, with primary objectives

of sustainability, biodiversity, open space, housing equity, and recreation features, including accessibility by soft surface and hard scaped trails. New developments to include set amount biodiversity landscaping and tree canopy. Emphasis should be to maintain or improve our quality of life and maintain adequate funding for maintenance of these facilities.

Additional comments from PPLAB that Comprehensive Plan address response to climate change.

Continue statement with our objective to take care of what we have.

VII. Work Plan - Finalize 2025

Reviewed Work Plan, move to approved, seconded and passed. John will send corrections to Abby.

Proposed Motion: City should continue to work toward decreasing use of pesticides.

Moved, seconded and approved

VIII. PPLAB Monthly Calendar

Budget considerations in April and going into May

Arboretum improvement discussion

Collaboration with other boards, e.g. OSAB

Cornerstone and Arboretum improvements

Bee City: Milkweed removal from noxious weed list and promotion of IWPM to the wider community, Japanese beetle mitigation memo out to community

IX. Board Report

On February 12, Louisville Bee City presented a Winter Seed Sowing Workshop at the Rec Center for the Louisville Bloomin' Seniors Garden Club. Thirteen people attended and were able to prepare 2 or 3 native plant planters each. Materials were provided by Louisville Bee City; seeds were provided by Wild Ones Front Range Chapter. The following weekend, Bee City, Wild Ones Front Range and Friends of Coal Creek participated in the Louisville Library Spring Seed Swap. An estimated 60 community members circulated through the seed swap during the afternoon.

X. Staff Report

Louisville Parks Department received a Transformative Grant to remove sod west of the Arboretum shelter, replacing with low water, pollinator friendly garden with plants from Resource Central Garden in a Box.

Scheduled volunteer event by a local Girl Scout troop at Arboretum.

Arbor day tree plantings.

Louisville Bee City USA annual renewal application completed and submitted.

Quasi-judicial role of PPLAB approved by City Council and completed. Council to create standing agenda item for reviews in front of Council, Abby and Brian Weber wrote guidelines for Board to have for future development decisions.

Sunflower and Enclave Park improvements are underway.

Irrigation supplies for Parks team have arrived.

City of Louisville

*Parks Division 749 Main Street Louisville CO 80027
303.335.4774 (phone) www.LouisvilleCO.gov*

Parks Department is focusing on improvements to Bocce ball courts and horseshoe pits, post holders improved.

Abby will be speaking at New England area conference on battery operated conversions and year round maintenance for synthetic multi-use fields.

XI. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

Milkweed removal from “Weed”: list, and see calendar notes above

XII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned 8:15 PM

Memorandum

To: City Council
From: Parks and Public Landscape Advisory Board
Date: 3/05/2025
Re: Comprehensive Plan

PPLAB wishes to express desire for lowest growth option as described, to include recommendations that designated area for parks be included in opportunity zones, with primary objectives of sustainability, biodiversity, open space, housing equity, and recreation features, including accessibility by soft surface and hard-scaped trails. New developments to include set amount biodiversity landscaping and tree canopy. Emphasis should be to maintain or improve our quality of life and maintain adequate funding for maintenance of these facilities.

Memorandum

To: Parks Public Landscape Advisory Board (PPLAB)
From: Abby McNeal, CSFM, CPRP
Date: 04/02/2025
Re: Parks Division Monthly Report

Streetscapes/ Horticulture:

Staff working on enhanced plant designs at Cornerstone, Cherry Street underpass, and Community Park landscape beds.

Project preparation: Louisville has been awarded a Transformative Landscape Change Challenge grant from Resource Central and the Colorado Water Conservation Board to replace 1,600 square feet of turfgrass at the Louisville Arboretum with a water-wise, fire-wise, and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden. Led by Parks, Recreation, and Open Space, with collaboration from the Sustainability Division, this project will conserve at least 40% more water through drip irrigation while enhancing biodiversity and community education. Inspired by Resource Central's Garden In A Box and Turf Replacement programs, it aligns with Louisville's commitment to sustainability and fire mitigation. The grant is matched through in kind time, and the implementation that will be spearheaded by Parks. The area is just west of the Arboretum Shelter.

Additionally, Parks will be working with Green Valley Turf Farm to convert the remaining two Kentucky Bluegrass spaces (east of the Arboretum Shelter) to Tahoma Bermuda grass. This conversion demonstration will showcase a water-wise sustainable grass. More information can be found at: <https://gvt.net/product/tahoma-31-sod/>

On- going: dead heading and pruning perennials and shrubs as weather permits.

Winter watering of medians and 2024 planted materials.

Parks, Athletic Fields, Cemetery:

Supporting general parks maintenance: preparing for shelter permits and special events

Repairs: horseshoe pit boards at Community Park – in progress and completed Par Course signage replacement holders.

Athletic Fields work on preparing infields for tournaments and permitted play

Forestry:

Aged Ash removed from Dillon medians

Limb clean up from high wind events

Winter watering of 2024 planted trees

Projects:

Playgrounds/ Park Renovations (Sunflower/Enclave) – started February 24 on schedule

Irrigation Improvements – controller purchased and installations 22 of 26 (as of 3/24)

PPLAB Development Review:

Project at 1301 Courtesy Road- DELO Boom: May agenda

Calendar

Arbor Day Volunteer Tree Planting Event

Date: 04/18/2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Arboretum

W Via Appia and Eldorado Lane

Louisville, Colorado 80027

Join us to celebrate Arbor Day! Volunteers and City of Louisville Parks staff members will plant trees in the Louisville Arboretum. We will learn about the benefits of urban trees and proper tree planting techniques.

If you would like to volunteer contact the City Forester Chris Lichty at (303) 335-4733 or chrisl@louisvilleco.gov

- Please bring a shovel if possible.
- Closed toed shoes required.
- Parking available at the Skate Park/ Inline Skate Rink or the Recreation & Senior Center.

Sponsored by the Forestry Division of the City of Louisville Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Public Landscapes Advisory Board

[Return to full list >>](#)

Calendar

Branch Recycle Site Open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Date: 04/05/2025 (all day)
Location: Branch Recycle Site
1779 Empire Rd
Louisville, Colorado 80027

City of Louisville Branch Recycle Site

- Available to Louisville Residents. Proof of residency will be checked at the gate by City staff.
- This site only accepts woody plant material such as tree and shrub debris. Leaves and grass clippings are not accepted.
- Located just to the north of the Louisville Cemetery on Empire Road ([view map](#))

For more information about the Branch recycle site, please contact [Chris Lichty](#), City Forester, at (303) 335.4733.

Mulch give away

Mulch pick up is self-serve at the gated entrance and is available year round. Staff refresh materials weekly.

Free compost for your garden (self-serve)

EcoGro Certified Class 1 garden compost is available to Louisville residents for self-service pickup on April 5 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Compost is limited in supply and is available until all material is gone.

For more information, please visit [Branch Recycle Site](#)

[Return to full list >>](#)