City of Louisville
COLORADO • SINCE 1878

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board

Agenda

April 1, 2026
Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
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 Cdavis@louisvilleco.gov.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Agenda

IV. Approval of Minutes from March 4th meeting

V. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

VI. Staff Updates

VII. Board Updates

VIII. Discussion Item-Review and Approve Memo to Budget Consideration Committee requesting funding for Bee City Committee for 2026 as a supplemental request

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 MeredythM@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.

IX. Discussion Item-Water restrictions/Drought Considerations (30 minutes total)

- Education Elements-How do we help the Community prepare for the drought conditions that are developing in Louisville in 2026?
- Public Commentor-Water Restrictions and drought adjustments
- John has document to share and integrate with City's Information Distribution structure, Tips and Best Practices

X. Discussion Item-Review 2027 Budget Recommendations for PPLAB including Bee City (30 minutes required)

XI. Discussion Items for Next Meeting-

- Markleville Public Comments/Submission

XII. Adjourn

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Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026
Library Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM

Call to Order – Chairperson Jody Ash called the meeting to order at 6:32, March 4, 2026.

Roll Call was taken and the following members were present:

Board Members Present:
Jody Ash - present
Kathy Kelsey - present
Kelli Zimmermann - present
David Pomeroy - present
John Webb – present
Jean Keil – present

Staff Members Present:
Erik Swiatek, Parks Supervisor
Adam Blackmore, Director of Parks, Recreation, & Open Space
Bryon Weber, Parks and Planning Project Manager
Chris David, Parks Superintendent

Guests:
Members of PROS Guidebook consultant team

Public in Attendance:
Mark Cathcart
Students from Monarch High School

Approval of Agenda – The agenda was approved by all members.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – The minutes from the February 4th, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

Public comments on Items Not on the Agenda
Mark Cathcart provided photos and written remarks of his neighborhood in northeastern Louisville and Lafayette, called Markelville. It is on the boarder of Louisville with 650 homes and 4 small neighborhoods. There is no park or playground. Residents are asking for a park.

Staff Updates
Dates of interest: next Thursday (March 12) is the Long Range and PROS Plan update, in conjunction with the Mayor's update.

Playground updates are slated for April 7 Council meeting.

Board Updates
Bee City Committee updates: in the process of creating 2026 program.

- Preparing submission of budget request, as part of Parks Department budget for outreach programs. Total request = $1500.
- Planning four presentations: (1) What can residents do to improve soil health? (2) Speaker on Native Plants; (3) Planting for Pollinators; (4) CU Boulder Museum talk on fossil pollinators.
- Garden tour planned for second week in June.
- Pollinator Art contest through the local elementary schools.
- Motion to craft a Memo to request funding for Bee City Committee at next PPLAB meeting.

Introduction of New Parks Superintendent – Chris Davis
Chris comes to Louisville after more than 20 years with park operations City of Longmont.
There were questions from PPLAB regarding philosophy on native plants and regenerative agriculture. Chris's first priority is functional turf, and he also acknowledges that native plants is where the industry is headed and he is supportive of this.

Review of Memory Square and Rec Center Playground Design
Memory Square and Recreation Center Playground are the next two playgrounds to be updated in Louisville. Louisville is trying to replace all playgrounds. Issues that have come up: replacement parts are no longer available with playgrounds are 20+ years old; playground standards have been updated and some current playgrounds are no longer ADA compliant.

- There are three options that have been created for each. Each park will be its own separate contract so they can be determined independently.
- There will be separate structures targeted to ages 2-5 and 5-12 at each park.
- Online voting is available through "Engage Louisville" and feedback has been solicited in person at both playgrounds.

- Questions to Brian about what factors are considered in playground design, and what kind of flexibility is there is in the placement of the different sections (i.e. swings, 2-5 structure and 5-12 structure).

Rec Center Playground

- Jody brought up the concern that 2-5 yr kids must move by the big kid structure to get to swings, both other members thought this was ok.
- For heat, particularly at Rec Center Playground; can adjust color and orientation of features like slides.
- Is there an option for better bathroom access at the Rec Center Playground? There is no plan for additional bathrooms at this park currently.
- PPLAB likes Option 1 for the Rec Center but would like to explore if slides can be northern orientation, colors to mitigate heat, and if the 2-5 age and 5-12 age structures be flipped (with the 2-5 age structure on the west, and 5-12 age structure on the east).

Memory Square Park Playground

- All options have the sand feature and swings
- There is no option to “mix-and-match” among 2-5 and 5-12 age structures from different structures.
- Height and color make playgrounds appealing.
- PPLAB likes Option 3

Motion to vote on playground options for Rec Center and Memory Square

- PPLAB votes to recommend Option 1 for the Rec Center playground, with considerations for heat and orientation (explore if slides can be northern orientation, colors to mitigate heat, and could the 2-5 and 5-12 structures be flipped with the 2-5 age structure on the west, and 5-12 age structure on the east).
- PPLAB votes to recommend Option 3 for Memory Square playground, with consideration about what colors or features make the playground distinctive from others in town.

Discuss Hackberry Park Bridge

- There is a unique opportunity to work with Mile High Flood District to build a bridge over Drainageway D to connect W Hackberry St to Warembourg Open Space.
- Mile High Flood District works on erosion and flood control issues along their ditches and Drainageways.
- Mile High Flood District and City of Louisville are pursuing an intergovernmental agreement that would likely include Louisville paying for the plans and Mile High Flood District paying for construction. There may be stairs in addition to sloping trail on the north side of the Drainageway.

Comments:

- PPLAB is strongly supportive of this idea and happy to continue to provide input.
- In current plan there may be some overlap with a popular sledding hill that is just to the west of the current social trail (to the east of the and overlapping with proposed trail area).
- There may be some advantages to moving the proposed new trail closer to the current social trail.

PROS Long Range Plan

- In third phase of collecting feedback.
- Community engagement: overall a really robust community engagement effort.
- Recommendations are based on Guiding Principles and Goals.
- Specific comments on Goals:
  - Jody specifically notes that "Reduce water use for landscaping" could be framed more broadly as a 'vegetation resiliency' and sustainability goal
  - With regards to Goal 4 ("Grow the urban forest canopy") – we may need to 'modernize' the urban forest canopy or find other ways to think about supporting urban trees in an increasingly arid climate and in the face of pests like Ash Borer. Perhaps "Adapt" or "Enhance" the urban forest canopy.
  - Rather than Goal 3 ('reduce water for landscaping') and Goal 4 ('grow the forest canopy'), we need a goal that is more orientated towards sustainability, and the ideas of 'reduce water for landscaping' and 'grow the forest canopy' could be pushed to actionable items.
  - Comment regarding the current lack of multi-use fields in Louisville and need to make this a priority.
  - Some of the strategies under "reduce water for landscaping" are redundant, could add other goals including soil health and vegetation resiliency. Some ideas may be added like technology advancements, improve soil health.
  - Recommendation to ensure that actions taken in Parks (via PROS) consistent with Louisville's Climate Action Plan. Define sustainability strategies in Parks to further objectives of Climate Action Plan.
  - Reinforce that water reduction as a strategy should be highlighted
  - Highlight the "diversity" of tree species – this is part of a resilient urban forest canopy.
  - What do we want from our tree canopy? Should this goal be reconsidered to be broader in scale?
  - Reduction in pesticide use is an important issue – this is part of the Sustainability Action Plan.
  - For terms like "underserved populations", focus more on service element (i.e. is this referring to individuals living more than a certain

distance from a park). Definition and context are important as they relate to Louisville's demographics.

Discuss 2026 Work Plan

- Now that Bee City is formally its own Committee, PPLAB ensures Bee City is sufficiently supported. In our Work Plan, Bee City can be added to PPLAB's "Outreach" and "collaborations with other boards" line items
- No vote necessary.

Discuss dates for the PPLAB joint meeting with Council

The date of April 28 does not work, so we must determine another Tuesday. Council can recommend a couple option dates when PPLAB and OSAB can present to Council. PPLAB will confer by email poll to identify the best date.

Discuss Items for Next Meeting

- Review and approve Memo to Budget Consideration Committee requesting funding for Bee City Committee for 2026 as a supplemental request.
- Beth Armbruster – water restrictions and drought adjustments
- Review 2027 Budget recommendations for PPLAB including Bee City (likely 30 minutes required)
- Education elements: how do help the community prepare for the drought conditions that are developing in Louisville in 2026? John has document to share and integrate with city's information distribution structure. Tips and best practices.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

City of Louisville
PARKS & RECREATION

Memorandum

To: **Louisville City Council, Budget Consideration Committee**

From: **Jody Ash, Chair-PPLAB**

Date: **April 1, 2026**

Re: **Supplemental Funding for PPLAB Bee City Committee**

PPLAB Requests the Bee City Committee be approved $1500 to provide education and outreach to the community for the year 2026.
We appreciate your consideration.

Outlook

Fwd: Sustainable water practices and conservatrion

From Jody Ash <jodyash.louisville@gmail.com>
Date Wed 3/25/2026 12:58 PM
To Miranda Schrib <mschrib@louisvilleco.gov>

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] From outside of City of Louisville DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you validate the sender and know the content is safe.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **beth armbruster** <brusterbeth@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Feb 12, 2026 at 1:48 PM
Subject: Sustainable water practices and conservatrion
To: <Hmiller@louisilleco.gov>, Barbara Hamlington <Bhamlington@louisvilleco.gov>, Dietrich Hoefner <Dhoefner@louisvilleco.gov>, Abby McNeal <AMcNeal@louisvilleco.gov>, Jody Ash <jodyash.louisville@gmail.com>

Hello city employees, council members and advisory board members,

Due to being unfamiliar with the chain of command and knowing who can be of greatest influence I am reaching out to all of you as policy makers and advisors to ask what measures are being taken by the city to address the persistent drought that our state/region/country is experiencing?
Instead of precipitation we are getting wind and warmer temps that excellerate moisture loss in the soil and faster depletion of water in our reservoirs.Further findings can be found on Drought.gov.

I ask community leaders to address water conservation by :
1. Modeling less watering and mowing. Allow grass height to be taller for better endurance by shading the soil, reducing evaporation and suppressing weeds.
2. Address mowing along trails in open space in guise of fire mitigation,
3. Educate the public to increase awareness by embedding water saving tips in the water bill, for example, best strategies to water trees and shrubs, resources to identifying plants suitable for arid climate.
4. Adopt water restrictions already enacting by other communities, ie. no watering between 10a -6pm, regulate the number of days permitted to water lawns.
Climate has changed, therefore our habits need to change by conserving our resources to leave a better future. I appreciate the native plants put in by the city along medians which demonstrates an awareness of drought tolerant plants appropriate to our region.
Please forward this email to whoever else can work on policy to make Louisville the leader in resource conservation and sustainability.

I look forward to your responses addressing these concerns and follow up to ensure this isn't overlooked.

Regards,
Beth Armbruster

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In Gratitude,
Jody Ash
PPLAB Chair
Bee City Committee
Owner, Wild Heritage Gardens & Design

303.883.7035
Louisville, CO

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." – **Margaret Mead***