

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board

Agenda

Wednesday, June 3, 2026
Louisville Public Library
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 +1 312 626 6799 or 888 788 0099 (toll free)
Webinar ID # 885 1622 9475
- You can log in via your computer. Please visit the [City's website](#) to link to the meeting:

The Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also [email comments](#) prior to the meeting.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda and Items on the Consent Agenda

Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per speaker. When several people wish to speak on the same position on a given item, a spokesperson may be used to state that position.

4. Consent Agenda

The following items on the agenda are considered routine and shall be approved, adopted, accepted, etc., by motion of the board and voice vote unless a board member specifically requests an item be considered under "Regular Business." In such an event, the item shall be removed from the "Consent Agenda" and action taken separately on said item in the order appearing on the Agenda. Those items so approved under the heading "Consent Agenda" will appear in the board minutes in their proper order.

5. Board Informational Comments

6. Staff Report

7. Regular Business

A. Approval of Minutes

- i. PPLAB Minutes from May 6, 2026

- B. Bee City Xerces Supporting Pesticide Free Plant Purchases
- C. Anticipating Drought Habitat Support
- D. Council PPLAB Presentation
- E. Find the Pomodoro

8. Adjourn

Resident Information

If you wish to speak at the meeting in person, please let the staff liaison know. If you are attending remotely, please use the “raise hand” icon to show you wish to speak in appropriate public comments section.

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or other accommodation should [email the City Clerk's Office](#) or call at 303.335.4574

A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión del Consejo, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4574 o [email](#)

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2026

Library Meeting Room

951 Spruce Street

6:30 PM

- I. **Call to Order** – Co-Chairperson John Webb called the meeting to order at 6:33pm, May 6, 2026.

- II. **Roll Call** was taken and the following members were present:

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

Staff Members Present:
Chris David, Parks Superintendent

Public in Attendance: none

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

- IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** – The minutes from the April 1st, 2026, meeting were approved as written.

- V. **Staff Updates**
 - Chris – getting parks ready and hoping for moisture, some fertilizing, and some mowing. Starting work with contractors.
 - Forestry department will be busy after today’s heavy snow.
 - The branch recycling facility will be open Friday and Saturday; will open again if needed.

City of Louisville

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

VI. Public comments on Items Not on the Agenda

- Kelli has some ideas about how the Parks Department may be able to incorporate volunteer help with the Parks.
 - ‘Adopt a Park’ idea – businesses have their name up at the park and then for a period (i.e. a month) a business would be responsible for going to check on the park and doing a minor clean-up effort.
 - Other groups, Scouts or other volunteer groups could also adopt a park.
 - Whose responsibility would this be? PPLAB could write a memo to our staff liaison, who could shop it around and see if there is interest.
 - Other ‘adopt a park’ efforts exist, for example Harper Lake has been adopted by a local Scout troop.
- Post a QR code at the Park to express interest – would allow interested individuals get on a list to receive notifications when there is a group being assembled to clean.
 - Look at procedures around ‘Adopt a Highway’
 - Could we talk with the Chamber of Commerce
 - Advertise with Realtors also
- There is an “Adopt an Open Space or Trail” program, so perhaps Parks can plug in to the same program.
- Discuss possibility for early involvement of PPLAB in planning for Community Park playground update.

VII. Board Updates

- Jody Ash has resigned from the PPLAB committee due to health reasons.
- Motion to approve John Webb as Chair, motion seconded, passed unanimously.
- Motion to approve David Pomeroy as Co-Chair of PPLAB, motion seconded, passed unanimously.
- Bee City will distribute information about upcoming webinars and talks about pollinators and low-water gardening.

Bee City Committee updates:

- Bee City participated in “Earth Day Every Day celebration”
- Bee City Pollinator Garden Tour – June 13, 2026, 9am – 2pm.
- City social media will announce information.
- 6 gardens participating. Invitations welcome – particularly from the Marshall Fire burn recovery area.

VIII. Discussion Item – Blue Sage, North End One and Two, and Coal Creek Village Resident Park Request- Public Comments/ Submission

- Parks department was under the impression that there was no City of Louisville Land in this area, but City assessor webpage indicates that there is city land in this area.
- Chris will check on the ownership of these areas to determine if there is City-owned land and report back in June.

IX. Check-in on Flower Bed upgrades & more native plantings at Arboretum, Community Park Flower Beds

- PPLAB inquiries about the potential to use Arboretum and Community Park beds as demonstration gardens for examples of how native plants and pollinator friendly plants can be used in local gardening spaces.

X. Invitation to Bee City/Xerces Webinar for Sourcing Pollinator-Safe Plants

- Friday May 15, free webinar on sourcing pollinator friendly plants
- PPLAB requests that individuals from Parks and/Open Space are aware of this webinar.

XI. Discussion of City Drought preparation and Review of Bee City Best Practices for Habitat Survival, included Denver Water Email attachment

- PPLAB asks Chris what Parks has planned for the dry summer, and for communication with Louisville residents.
- No water programs have started other than trees, medians and ball fields.
- Parks takes direction from the Water Board on watering.
- Water Department is under Public Works. Public Works issues are primarily discussed at City Council meetings.
- PPLAB can send an email to Chris with questions, and Chris can ask questions about how PPLAB can proceed.
- PPLAB would like to create a memo sharing the document prepared by John Webb and Kristine Johnson with City of Louisville Parks Department.

XII. Planning for PPLAB and Bee City Meeting with City Council, May 26

- Reminder from Chris to provide justification for all budget requests
- Ask City Council for an update on the Integrated Weed and Management Plan. This is the biggest request of PPLAB to Council.
- Express thanks to the Parks and other Departments in Louisville
- Showcase both what we have done and what we would like to see

- This is an important time to mention the request for PPLAB's early involvement in the design of Community Park
- Jean will draft document and send individually to PPLAB members for review.

XIII. Discussion items for next meeting

- Planning for Community Park playground
- Chris report on presence of City of Louisville land in the Blue Sage, North Ends One and Two, and Coal Creek Village areas.
- Summer meeting schedule – will PPLAB hold our July 1 and/or August meetings?

XIV. Adjourn – the meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Partnering with Nurseries for Pollinator-Safe Plants



Bombus pensylvanicus on *Astragalus*
Photo by Xerces Society / Amy Dolan

Colorado Front Range
Bee Cities and Campuses

Sharon Selvaggio
Pesticide Reduction Program, Nurseries Lead
The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

May 15, 2026



Floriculture and Nursery

- *Significantly higher pesticide use per acre than field food crops in the U.S.*



Studies typically find multiple pesticides in a single nursery plant sample



Sometimes concentrations of insecticides in nursery plants reach levels able to kill bees or butterflies



Insecticides and fungicides can be harmful on their own or in combination



Systemic pesticides can linger in plants for months or years after an application, especially woody plants



Hedgehog cactus.
Photo by Xerces Society / Candace Fallon

Sources: Yin et al. 20203, Halsch et al. 2022, Halsch et al. 2020, Stoner et al. 2019, Lentola et al. 2017, Brown et al. 2014



Case study: 235 milkweed tested from retailers

- *Strobilin fungicides – at higher concentrations, leads to smaller monarchs*



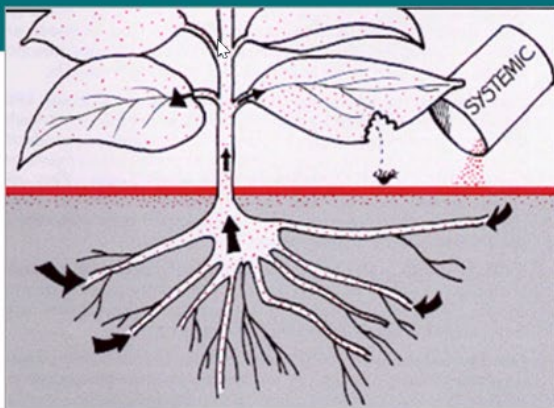
- ❖ 38% of the milkweeds had concentrations of fungicides associated with shorter wing lengths in monarchs.
- ❖ Size, specifically wing length, has been correlated with migratory ability in monarchs
- ❖ Plants with a label referring to its value for wildlife were almost twice as likely to contain at least one pesticide at a potentially harmful level.



Data from Halsch et al. 2022. Photo: Monarch caterpillar (Xerces Society / Stephanie McKnight)

Case study: milkweeds purchased at retail

- 235 milkweeds tested: 69% contained highly toxic persistent and systemic insecticides (higher risk)
- Average count of 1.6 higher risk insecticides per plant
- Some at very high concentrations



Data from Halsch et al. (2022). Graphic: Systemic pesticide movement. Randy Oliver

Most Common Insecticides Detected

Insecticide	Percent Positive Detections	Higher Risk*
Spinosad	43%	no
Flupyradifurone	40%	yes
Acephate	38%	no
Dinotefuran	34%	yes
Thiamethoxam	30%	yes
Cyantraniliprole	23%	yes

* reliably systemic, highly bee-toxic, and med-long persistence

Some common systemic insecticides linger

- Common nursery systemic insecticides used on milkweed killed developing monarchs — even with 2-week time elapse between spray and caterpillar feeding

Multiple Insecticides Killed Developing Monarchs		
Pesticides were sprayed on leaves and <u>allowed to degrade for 2 weeks</u> before monarch caterpillars introduced		Rank, California nursery and greenhouse sector [†]
Flupyradifurone*	80% died as caterpillars or pupae	20
Imidacloprid* (neonic)	80% died as caterpillars or pupae	1
Acetamiprid* (neonic)	40% died as caterpillars or pupae	10
Pymetrozine	100% died as caterpillars or pupae	20+
Spirotetramat	80% died as caterpillars or pupae	6
* Detected in retail milkweed study		
† Based on acres treated in 2023, data from Cal DPR		

Monarch mortality tests from Mach et al. 2024



Photo: *Bombus huntii* on rabbitbrush. Xerces Society / Amy Dolan



Xerces Habitat Kits

supplying free, native, pollinator-attractive plants

Since 2019,
we have purchased ~600,000 plants from nurseries

...and distributed to ~2000 projects,
mostly on working and community lands across the U.S.



Photos: (L) Minnesota Native Landscapes; (R) Hedgerow on Midwest farm, Sarah Foltz Jordan (Center) top - Habitat kit planting at Frog Hollow Farm, Lisa Damerel; bottom: Rhizomes in habitat kits. Xerces Society / Jessa Kay Cruz



Solution-

- *Talking to nurseries about their pest management*



Photos: (L-R): Steve Debenport, iStock,

Monarch caterpillar together with oleander aphids on milkweed. Photo by GTM NERR, Flickr, CC BY-NC 2.0



Solution—



- **Prioritize purchases from nurseries with robust IPM practices**

PROTECTING POLLINATORS FROM PESTICIDES

Offering Bee-Safe Plants: A Guide for Nurseries



Retail and production nurseries can be important partners in pollinator conservation by supplying perennials, shrubs, trees, and annuals that are free from harmful pesticide residues. Pollinator-friendly nursery production incorporates non-chemical pest prevention, scouting and monitoring, and limiting pesticide harm.



Find at <https://www.xerces.org/publications>

Solution—



- **Contract grow with nurseries willing to follow Xerces pollinator-safe guidance that avoids hidden risks from the most harmful pesticides**

Designed to be Protective for:

- Adult and larval bees
- Adult butterflies and their caterpillars

Learn more



Supplying Pollinator-Safe Nursery Plants AVOIDING HIDDEN RISKS



More than a quarter of home gardeners are choosing plants that attract bees and butterflies (Khachatryan and Rihn 2020). The nursery industry has been an important partner by ramping up production of pollinator-attractive plants and local natives.

Growing natives, and moving towards more pollinator-safe production methods, are not only important for conservation, but may be financially rewarding for nurseries. Recent studies find that:

The first line of defense in pest management is using time-tested non-chemical methods to prevent pest buildup. The second is conducting regular scouting to detect pests early.

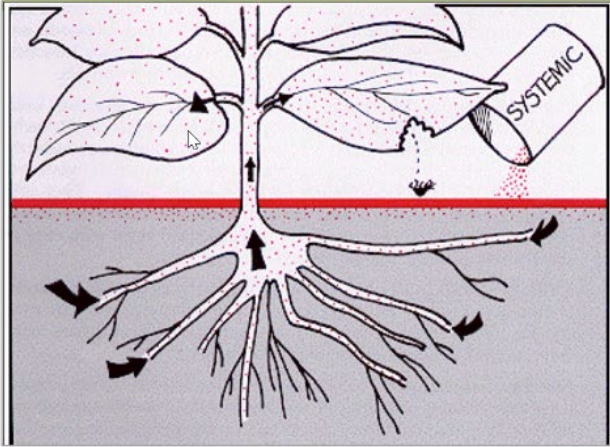
- Consumers who prefer native plants are willing to pay a premium for them (Yue et al. 2012).
- Plant lovers (frequent purchasers who spend more money on plants) prioritize sustainable production methods (Wei et al. 2024).
- Consumers are willing to pay \$1.15 more (\$1.54 in 2025 dollars, per [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)) for bee-friendly production methods compared to traditionally grown plants, and more for bee-friendly production than for other nursery sustainability practices (Getter et al. 2016).

Many producers strive to provide pollinator-safe plants, for example by committing to neonicotinoid-free production (Khachatryan et al. 2021). Yet some may be unknowingly substituting other risky insecticides or using fungicides detrimental to pollinators (Kelsch et al. 2022).

After implementing sound pest prevention and scouting protocols, a next step is avoiding hidden risks for bees and butterflies by sidestepping

How Xerces Contract Grow Specs Work

Disallows use of 26 systemic insecticides throughout production cycle



Disallows use of 99 other pesticides (certain insecticides and fungicides, mostly contact type) for 2 weeks prior to delivery



Drawing - Randy Oliver; Photo by Jim Bethke



Nurseries are Stepping Up!

- Currently MOUs or stand alone contracts with 14 nurseries across the country

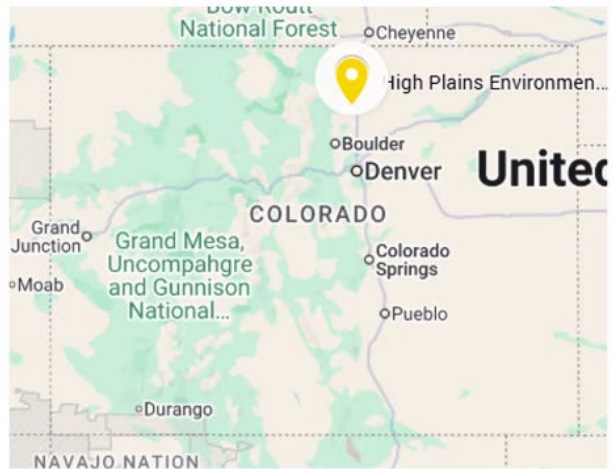
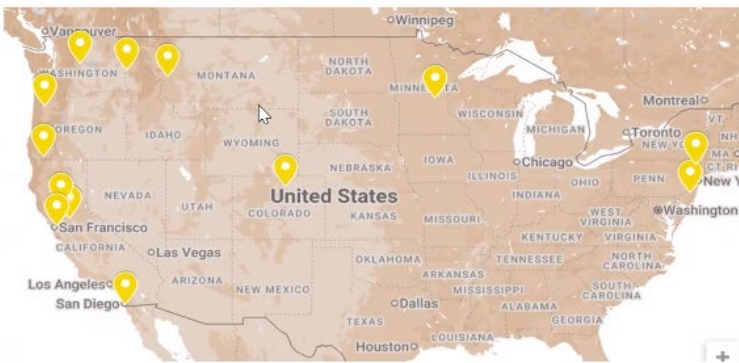
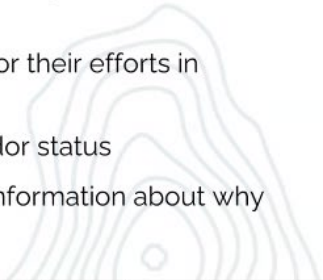




Photo: Full Circle Gardens Nursery (Vermont). Insectary strip to help attract beneficial natural enemies of crop pests. Xerces Society / Emily May

Make it Worth Their While

- Collaborate with other nearby affiliates for a larger order
- Quantify your reach – not only for this order but for future orders. Example, your city may buy 5,000 plants per year, another may be 2,000 plants per year, another may buy 4,000 plants per year. Together your budgets create leverage.
- Recognize the nursery for their efforts in sustainability.
- Consider preferred vendor status
- Provide resources and information about why this is important.



Call to Action

What could this be for your city/campus?

- ▶ Strengthen your affiliate's purchasing policy?
- ▶ Try a contract grow for your next purchase?
- ▶ Encourage a community collaboration?



How Can We Help?

- Three fact sheets in our Bee-Safe series
- Nursery interview support
- Template contract grow and MOU
- Knowledge of local nurseries willing to grow this way
- Support for reviewing your purchasing policies
- Connections with others doing similar work

Supporting Habitat Resilience while Preparing for Drought
By Kristine Johnson, Wild Ones Front Range Chapter, and
John Webb, Louisville Bee City USA Committee, contact us at:
kristinejohnson@icloud.com and johnwebb20@comcast.net

Snowpack in Colorado was far below average https://www.weather.gov/bou/co_snowpack and is melting quickly; we are not having or expecting normal stream flows this spring and summer. Temperatures have been very high this winter, with records for temperatures at or above 60F, and new high for average temperature for winter in Boulder County, <https://bouldercast.com/a-complete-failure-of-winter-across-the-west-and-what-it-means-for-the-rest-of-2026/>). All of Boulder County is in severe drought, with southeast Boulder County and much of the Denver Metro area recently classified as extreme drought: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CO>. These data indicate that we should take measures to preserve and protect our landscapes. Colorado has seen drought in the past, so we have some good strategies for getting through it.

We are both based in Boulder County, but the information in this article is relevant to much of the Front Range of Colorado.

Message: Just because it's dry doesn't mean that habitat has to suffer. Drought is both natural and induced.

Outline of this resource:

- **Watering restrictions coming? Water conservation and drought planning links.**
- **Top tips for managing your landscape through a hot, dry growing season and possible drought restrictions.**
- **Regenerative agriculture principles.**
- **Water capture principles.**
- **Habitat principles.**
- **Sustainability principles.**
- **Trees and shrubs.**
- **Lawn.**
- **Pollinator/flower gardens.**
- **Vegetable gardens.**

Watering restrictions coming?

The last time Boulder County municipalities enacted watering restrictions was in 2002. Decisions on watering restrictions generally happen in early May after the accumulation of winter snowpack. Various municipalities provide information about drought and water conservation. Some cities along the Front Range are already issuing watering restrictions.

- **City of Boulder water conservation and drought planning:**
<https://bouldercolorado.gov/services/drought-watch-program#:~:text=Questions%20Toggle%20Menu->

[.Annual%20Water%20Supply.recommend%20additional%20measures%20if%20needed](#) and <https://boulder.colorado.gov/services/water-conservation>

- City of Louisville water conservation and drought planning: <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/living-in-louisville/residents/sustainability/waste-reduction-and-circularity/water-conservation-new> and <https://www.louisvilleco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/28659/63736365841060000>
- City of Lafayette water conservation and drought planning: <https://www.lafayetteco.gov/1419/Water-Efficiency> and <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62102d32cbc97713f25c3099/t/672e67d7aa77bf3e4470ea45/1731094487389/Lafayette+CWP+Grant+summary+SPBRT.pdf>
- City of Ft. Collins water conservation and drought planning: <https://www.fortcollins.gov/Services/Utilities/Programs-and-Rebates/Water-Programs/Residential-Water-Conservation> and <https://ourcity.fcgov.com/water-shortage-planning1>
- City of Denver water conservation and drought planning: <https://www.denverwater.org/residential/rebates-and-conservation-tips> and <https://www.denverwater.org/your-water/water-supply-and-planning/drought>
- City of Colorado Springs water conservation and drought planning: <https://www.csu.org/water-wise-rules/> and <https://www.csu.org/hubfs/Document-Library/2022WaterEfficiencyPlan.pdf>
- Numerous water conservation programs at Resource Central: <https://resourcecentral.org/>
- Numerous water conservation programs at Northern Water: <https://www.northernwater.org/environmental/efficient-water-use>

Top tips for managing your landscape through a hot, dry growing season and possible drought restrictions:

- Don't start a lawn.
- If you must have a Kentucky blue grass lawn, shrink its size this year.
- If you must start a lawn, particularly if it is in a low traffic area, consider using native grasses: <https://coloradonativegrass.org/>
- Carefully consider the new plants you establish this year; it may be challenging if watering restrictions ratchet up. All plants need at least some watering to get established, but native and xeric plants will require less.
- Prepare your soil to increase infiltration and storage: apply plant-based compost, judicious use of the appropriate type of mulch, avoid compaction.
- Prioritize how to "spend" the water you have: trees and shrubs should be top of the list
- This is a good time to kill your lawn! Consider sod cutting, solarization, sheet mulching. Huge opportunity! Make lemonade! <https://resourcecentral.org/lawn/> check out the Turf Removal Grants from Resource Central and Terra Foundation at <https://www.landscapingwithcoloradonativeplants.org/grants> (grants may be closed for the season, but they are offered every year, with the grant application processing

opening in March). Other grants may be available from local sources, so don't be afraid to Google "Turf Removal Grants!"

- If in an HOA: a good time to join landscaping committee and to advocate for reducing nonfunctional turf, replace with native plants (Northern Water grants <https://www.northernwater.org/environment/efficient-water-use/grants> Colorado Garden Foundation grants <https://www.coloradogardenfoundation.org/about/grants/> link to Kristine's grant article: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Y0Iq36wub67HZKlgh_UmNJ6Pf63bBBbS2m_-ngj_fxA/edit?usp=sharing)
- Explore on-line resources at Resource Central about water conservation <https://resourcecentral.org/>
- Sprinkler audits, turf replacement, subsidized "Garden in a Box" program in many municipalities, programs for HOAs and larger properties.
- If we have not listed your municipality or county, search "town/county + drought planning" or "town/county + water conservation" to find out about local programs, rebates, grants, and possible restrictions.
- Consult the resources at CSU Extension, based on local climates and ecosystems. <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/watering-a-home-landscape-during-drought/#:~:text=Xeriscape%C2%AE%20principles.-,Water%20Wisely%20and%20Efficiently,are%20established%20in%20the%20soil.>
- Mosquitos could be low this year or may arrive early. Don't create habitat for them in your yard through your watering: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/news/its-mosquito-season>

Regenerative agriculture principles:

- Tilling disrupts life in your soil, can further erosion and loss of soil organic matter, can bring dormant weed seeds to the surface, and breaks up existing soil structure and pores. In general, it is better to top dress with an amendment like compost and to allow soil life to work the material down into the soil.
- Use plant-based compost, top dressing rather than tilling (application rates and information <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/soil-amendments/>); use as a top dressing and disregard the information about tilling in.
- Feed your microbes with compost, saved autumn leaves, and chop 'n' drop weeding!
- Instead of wood-based or gravel mulches, consider a cover crop of living mulch; dense planting of your native plants or planting in a matrix of native grasses. <https://frontrange.wildones.org/mulch-for-your-colorado-native-plant-garden/>
- Diverse plants in your garden ensure that something is active and growing as much of the year as possible to help crowd out weeds, provide forage and habitat for beneficial insects and birds, and help to infiltrate precipitation.
- Avoid synthetic inputs like fertilizers and pesticides; these can harm soil life, beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife and pollute surface water.
- Regenerative agriculture includes grazing, which is hard to incorporate in our yards. If you have a native grass lawn, consider mowing it once every year or two (or mowing one third to one half per year).

Water capture principles:

- The soil is your best storage site for precipitation, and it stores more when it has more organic matter; <https://www.harvestingrainwater.com/2020/08/cool-yourself-your-neighborhood-and-the-planet-with-the-water-harvesting-soil-carbon-sponge/>
- “Soil is your tank”: soil organic matter and roots soak up and hold water to extend availability for plants.
- Where are your downspouts going? You want every drop of water that falls on your lot to stay on your lot and benefit what you are growing. Redirect downspouts to planted areas.
- In general, get in the practice of shoveling snow back onto your yard where it can soak in slowly.
- Links to precipitation harvesting resources by Brad Lancaster: <https://www.harvestingrainwater.com/>, and https://www.youtube.com/@Brad_Lancaster_Water_Harvester, Watershed Management Group <https://watershedmg.org/>, Wild Ones Front Range articles <https://frontrange.wildones.org/rainwater-harvesting/>, <https://frontrange.wildones.org/connecting-native-plant-gardening-and-rain-gardening/>, <https://frontrange.wildones.org/rain-gardening-thinking-about-next-steps/>, <https://frontrange.wildones.org/multi-stem-native-trees-and-large-shrubs-for-colorado-landscapes/>, and Wild Ones webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIWaYtgV-4E>
- Consider common sense, legal, practical “greywater”: fill a bucket with the water that pours out when you are waiting for shower water to be hot enough; pour water you’ve used to rinse organic produce onto houseplants or landscape plants, etc.

Habitat principles:

- Choose xeric (low water), native plants. These resources can help you choose the right plant species for your area:
Wild Ones Front Range <https://frontrange.wildones.org/toolkit/>.
Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation: <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/pollinator-friendly-plant-lists>,
The National Wildlife Federation: <https://www.nwf.org/Native-Plant-Habitats/Plant-Native/Why-Native/Keystone-Plants-by-Ecoregion>.
Audubon Rockies Habitat Hero: <https://www.audubon.org/rockies/get-involved/habitat-hero-resources>.
- Visit the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster, <https://butterflies.org/exhibit/gardens-trails>, Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens in Lyons, <https://rmbg.org/>, Denver Botanic Gardens, <https://www.botanicgardens.org/>, or one of the many xeric and native plant demonstration gardens in our area.
- Join your local garden club or native plant organization.
- Use locally-produced (and often free) arborist mulch rather than shredded bark products.
- Stay away from big box store plant sources (neonics and other “-icides”): <https://frontrange.wildones.org/resources/purchase-native-plants/>.
- Plants which bloom early are really important; in Colorado, a lot of these are trees and shrubs: <https://csfs.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Native-Trees-for->

[Colorado-Landscapes-Fact-Sheet-7.421.pdf](#) and <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/native-shrubs-for-colorado-landscapes/>.

- Leave last year's stems cut to 12 or 14 inches for stem-nesting insects: https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/uploads/1/3/9/1/13913231/stemnestingbeesweb_1.pdf.
- Bunch grasses—xeric, and they are host plants for butterflies and skippers: <https://frontrange.wildones.org/wp-content/images/sites/105/2021/08/Cool-Warm-Season-Colorado-Native-Grasses-Sheet1-1.pdf>.
- Promoting soil health: don't fertilize! Compost your leaves, use plant-based compost, preserve the existing roots in the soil; consider chop and drop for weeding and try "living mulch" techniques (planting densely, planting in a matrix of native grasses): <https://coloradonativegrass.org/resources/>.
- Provide water for birds and insects, remember to change out the water regularly for wildlife health and to reduce mosquito habitat: <https://www.xerces.org/blog/if-youre-thirsty-theyre-thirsty-make-simple-water-source-to-support-pollinators>.

Sustainability principles:

- Conserve water outside: don't overwater onto sidewalks and hardscape. Don't water in the heat of the day. Don't water if there's been any recent rain. CHECK YOUR LOCAL GUIDELINES.
- Save time by not mowing: Coloradoscaping and native grass lawns conserve water and require little to no mowing.
- Slow your watering down to allow infiltration.
- Hand watering and drip irrigation are more efficient; targeted, you generally won't overwater, and it may not be restricted.
- If there is a storm and you have an irrigation timer—pause it!
- Conserve water inside the house; now is a good time to buy aerators for faucets and to replace inefficient high output showerheads and toilets with large tanks. Identify and fix leaks!
- Consider an irrigation system tied into a soil sensor but make sure to check it periodically (poke a finger into the soil).
- Consider a sprinkler audit (Resource Central, Northern Water), also Louisville, other municipalities.
- Use a mulching mower—over time you will save water and not need fertilizer. Go electric for better air quality and less noise!
- In choosing ornamental landscape plants: consider xeric native plants which are best adapted to our climate-related stresses. The Wild Ones Front Range toolkit has many plant lists for many situations: <https://frontrange.wildones.org/toolkit/>.
- Do NOT fertilize native plants, do not fertilize a mature lawn. Too much fertilizer causes eutrophication in surface drainages, pollution, overgrowth of plants, and increased water demand. It's not good for soil health; consider organic, slow-release options like plant-based compost. See the lawn section for more ideas.
- NO on pesticides (herbicide, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc.), they can be persistent and mobile in the environment. Systemic pesticides like neonicotinoids are

present in plants long after they are applied. Nonchemical means of control are generally nontoxic and safe around people and pets. Plant for diversity and use trap plants in your veggie garden.

- Dealing with stinging insects: These are the wolves of the garden and native habitats, they are mostly harmless and clean up dead critters. You might trap yellowjacket queens early for more pleasant outdoor dining.
- Join iNaturalist or Seek and start learning about the food webs in your yard.
- Ditch that bug zapper. They don't kill mosquitos, which seek out warm bodies that are exhaling CO₂. Bug zappers only kill night-flying moths and other insects that have better things to do than entertain (or horrify) your BBQ guests!
- Turn off your porch lights, install motion detecting lights, and replace older outdoor light bulbs with yellow bulbs or Dark Sky certified fixtures.
- Make a mosquito bucket trap (pages 202 - 205) in Douglas Tallamy's book **How Can I Help?**
- Read the rest of Douglas Tallamy's book, **How Can I Help?**
- Join a conservation organization or a community science project!
- Buying organic produce supports soil conservation and environmental health somewhere else.

Trees and shrubs:

- We ask a lot of our long-lived members of our landscapes. Accordingly, watering trees and shrubs is the highest landscape priority during drought.
- Follow recommendations from CSU Extension, which include recommendations for dormant periods (fall and winter) and the growing season:
<https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/fall-and-winter-watering-of-plants-and-trees/>
<https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/watering-mature-shade-trees/>
- In Winter: water once a month, with a slow trickle in the warmest part of the day. The way to remember is to use holidays: the week of a holiday (Thanksgiving! Valentine's Day!), think trees! Choose the warmest day that week, and water trees and shrubs when the temperature is at least 45F and it's at least two hours before sundown.
- Drought stress makes trees more susceptible to disease and pests.
- Consider planting native trees, adapted to our climate and soils and winds (see above); consider native shrubs—they are tough, some have edible fruit, support pollinators, birds (see the CSU links above; consult Wild Ones Front Range for plant lists).
- Mulch with arborist mulch, but do it appropriately: 3" from trunk, 3" deep, 3' out, no mulch volcanos around the trunk, no landscape fabric.
- If you remove your lawn: your tree had been watered when your lawn was getting watered; you must provide supplemental water for trees.

Lawn:

- Consider reducing your bluegrass lawn, particularly in areas where it's not being used for recreation (front lawns, hell strips, etc.). Resource Central, local water providers, and municipalities have good rebate programs and many offer sod removal services, as well as garden in a box and pre-planned collections for less thirsty, beautiful plants you can plant instead.
- Check out the Colorado Native Grass guide: <https://coloradonativegrass.org/>.
- Follow best practices: mow your lawn as high as you can—it will be healthier. Adjust your watering for your soil type (sandy vs. clayey) and the season/temperature. If you have programmable controls, break your landscape and garden watering into multiple short applications instead of one long one period, and water between 10 pm and 8 am (but be sure to check it once in a while to make sure everything is working properly and not filling your street gutters). Leave your clippings; they build healthy soil, which holds more water. Mature lawns do not require fertilization: <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/lawn-care-basics/>.
- If watering restrictions come, be aware that Kentucky bluegrass will go dormant during hot and dry weather but will bounce back in cooler weather and when watering or precipitation resumes. Per CSU, fescues may not recover well from zero watering through intense drought and no watering: <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/fine-fescues-for-lawns/>.

Pollinator/flower gardens:

- Water perennials planted last year; they are not fully rooted in (water by hand if necessary).
- Check your municipalities for opportunities for free compost or mulch. Use the local branch and tree recycling site or commercial (Western Disposal) opportunities, check out chipdrop.com, see above for best practices for mulching around trees.
- Leave a little bare ground for ground nesting bees. Landscaping fabric is especially problematic for ground-nesting bees (so many reasons to skip it!): <https://www.xerces.org/blog/clear-space-for-bees-why-pollinators-in-your-yard-need-access-to-bare-ground>.
- Remove the last of that landscape fabric or plastic. The soil, plants, ground nesting bees and other beneficial insects will thank you. It sheds microplastics, impedes water infiltration, and negatively impacts soil health.
- Take care of the plants you plant this season: optimal planting time is normally April or May; but also consider late August through early October for planting perennials.
- Consider and plant for seasonal bloom coverage; plant more than one individual of a species, try to have something blooming from spring through fall (trees and shrubs count). Look at the many articles in the Wild Ones Front Range Coloradoscaping toolkit: <https://frontrange.wildones.org/toolkit/>. Consider covering new plantings for several days to a few weeks (floating row cover, lawn chair, laundry basket, cut or ventilated milk jugs, etc.), especially if it is unseasonably hot when you plant. Remember to water to help the plants get established; even xeric plants need watering at the beginning.

- Consult Xerces, NWF, Audubon, to find high impact “Keystone” plants, Wild Ones Front Range has copious information about easy to grow plants, shade plants, xeric plants, and gardening info: <https://frontrange.wildones.org/toolkit/>, and plant data cards <https://frontrange.wildones.org/native-landscaping/native-seed-swaps/native-plant-data-sheets/> (see links listed above).
- Sources for plants: High Plains Environmental Center (Loveland), Harlequin’s Gardens (Boulder), look on Wild Ones Front Range website for more sources <https://frontrange.wildones.org/resources/purchase-native-plants/>. In the winter and spring, check with the Colorado State Forest Service Nursery and other regional and county conservation programs. Resource Central Garden in a Box collections are all xeric, not all are native, but do have native and Pollinator collections: <https://resourcecentral.org/gardens/>.
- Consider host plants for butterflies and moths that live in your ecozone. Check the resources elsewhere in this document (Wild Ones Front Range, Xerces, Audubon, NWF). Other organizations and resources exist, including from Environment for the Americas, the Boulder County Nature Association, CSU Extension, and the Butterfly Pavilion.

Vegetable gardens:

- Spread compost early; when used as a topdressing, it acts as a mulch, and it provides nutrients slowly; helps the soil hold more moisture.
- Use plant-based compost, <https://extension.colostate.edu/resource/soil-amendments/> over time the added compost will increase soil organic matter; don’t add salts from composted manure (read ingredients or make your own).
- If you think you need to fertilize, get a soil test done so you know what your soil needs and you don’t add fertilizer unnecessarily (pollutes water, affects soil biota).
- Understand your soil texture so you can water properly; slow and intermittent works well for most soils.
- Try to water the base of plants early in the day; saves water from evaporation, avoids powdery mildew.
- Consider planting “cold season” plants a little early (spinach, beets, radish, chard, cabbage family plants, snow and snap peas); these tolerate colder temperatures.
- Consider buying locally adapted seeds; <https://masaseedfoundation.org/>.
- Buy locally grown starts: MASA <https://masaseedfoundation.org/>, Growing Gardens, Harlequin.
- Limit or eliminate your use of pesticides and chemical treatments; consider floating row covers, blast of hose, picking off bugs (Squash and Japanese beetles), Japanese beetle traps can be effective if monitored and located away from target plants.
- Plant choices can impact Japanese beetle visits: they love roses, raspberries, grapes, Virginia creeper, etc., their larvae feed on the roots of turf grass in pristine lawns.
- “Chop and drop” weeds in the garden that aren’t going to seed or sprout new growth from scraps (bind weed) as added mulch.
- Plant densely to shade the soil.
- Mulch between rows/beds.

- Companion plant with native plants to increase fruiting; if you plant native flowering plants which host and attract native pollinating insects, you will get increased yield from your fruiting plants and host beneficial insects; provides a refugia for when the annual veggies aren't there (feeds and houses beneficial insects in off season).

Fire:

- Keeping your trees healthy is important!
- Remove leaves from around foundations and against fences; consider using them in your flower beds for the best quality and free mulch; can also be composted: <https://www.coolboulder.org/news/give-leaf-mold-a-go>.
- Create a 5 foot gap from your foundation with no wood mulch, and no plantings: <https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/1fire-prev/bookletguidetofirewiselandscapingandconstruction.pdf?sfvrsn=badfdd0d>, and the YouTube videos from Resource Central: <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=firewise+landscaping&mid=0C590774DF3B76218C3E0C590774DF3B76218C3E&churl=https%3a%2f%2fwww.youtube.com%2fchannel%2fUC7tGRt78mo38awkR3Lt1uQ&FORM=VIRE>
- Because it's been so warm and snow free, we can do some of these activities early to hopefully store any precipitation that may come in our wettest months, April and May.
- Wildfire Partners has a lot of resources to start with: <https://wildfirepartners.org/>. Also check CSU Extension resources, and the Idaho Firewise list of low flammability plants <https://idahofirewise.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/FireXResistanceXofXPlantsXMasterXDatabase.pdf>.
- Spring is a great time to clean gutters.
- Consider replacing your wood privacy fence now or eventually. At the very least, replace any wood fencing within 5' of your home or other structures (it can act as a fire wick to your home). Tightly spaced boards on wood fences restrict movements of small pollinators, consider building bee/insect homes or birdhouses with your leftover fencing material and tree branch trimmings.
- Wildfire is now a year-round hazard, it's smart to be practicing good habits year-round.
- Keep your "habitat" areas far from homes, fences, structures; consider strategic placement of home-protecting elements like brick/stone/concrete patios and walkways, lawn, rock and crevice gardens closer to your home.
- Keep your compost moist (so it will break down and not become fuel for wildfire).

Share with:

WOFR, Bee City USA, Cool Boulder, Xerces... local garden clubs, HOAs, landscape cos, Harlequins, HPEC, any others? CSU Extension? Boulder Water Utility, Front Range Water, Northern Water, OSCAR, ask people to share? Parks and public landscapes, blooming seniors, open space, Resource Central, Xerces, EFTA, Audubon, PPAN, BCNA, KGNU, other media.



City Council & Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board 2026 Joint Meeting

May 26, 2025

Mayor: Chris Leh

Board Chair: John Webb

Liaison: Chris Davis, Parks & Forestry
Superintendent

Introductions

- John Webb
- He/Him
- Chair PPLAB and Louisville Bee City USA Committee
- Currently serving in my fifth year as PPLAB member, third year as Louisville Bee City USA Chair, and beginning first term as PPLAB Chair

Purpose and Expectations

- Annual joint meeting with City Council
- Overview of PPLAB role
- 2026 City Council Priorities and Work Plan
- 2026 PPLAB Priorities
- Discussion/Direction from City Council

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board Role

Advisory to city council.

Louisville Municipal Code

- Sec. 2.20.020. – Boards and Commissions - General

Except as otherwise provided by the charter or by ordinance, each board and commission shall be advisory in character. The term, responsibilities, policies, and other matters concerning each board and commission shall be as established by resolution.

- Sec. 8.12.240 – Appeals

Any decision of the city forester concerning licensing or removal of trees may be appealed to and heard by the parks and public landscaping advisory board.

Resolution No. 65, Series 2015

- To assist the City Council and staff in determining the community's needs and desires for parks, programs, and facilities in relationship to parks related issues in the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan;
- To advise the City Council and staff on park and public landscape maintenance, development, and redevelopment, and review referrals for proposed landscape plans for public areas;
- To advise the City Council and staff on the capital and operating budget as it relates to parks and public landscape maintenance;
- To advise the City Council and staff on best practices related to parks and landscaping;
- To promote healthy horticultural and forestry practices in public and private landscapes;
- To educate the public regarding horticultural and forestry practices appropriate to Louisville's climate and soils;
- To review and give comments on city landscape master plans, landscape ordinances and other appropriate landscape documents;
- To maintain a list of small, medium, and large trees, bushes and shrubs to be planted as street trees or park trees and advise the City on the adoption of regulations for the care and planting of trees.

Other Key Guidance

- All City Boards are subject to the Colorado Open Records Act and Open Meeting rules in the Home Rule Charter.
- Rules of Procedure are in place for all boards. These cover meeting civility, general rules, meeting requirements and more.
- Bylaws – Updates coming
- Continuing quasi-judicial role

2026 Council Work Plan

Four Priorities:

- Economic Vitality
- Core Services
- Safety
- Affordable Housing

Two lenses:

- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)
- Environmental Sustainability

2026 Council Work Plan

- Downtown Vision Plan Streetscapes and Public Places
- Economic Vitality Committee Policy Recommendations
- Targeted Development Code and Process Amendments
- Development Code Rewrite
- Sundance Film Festival
- McCaslin Corridor

2026 Proposed Work Plan

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board

2026 PPLAB Work Plan Summary

- Objectives:
 - Sustainably Maintain Existing Parks Infrastructure and Landscape
 - Fire Hardening of Existing Park Infrastructure and Future Parks Development
 - Promote Economic Vitality by Fostering Welcoming and Sustainable Parks and Infrastructure
 - Promote EDI Through Work Plan Objectives and Actions
- Budgetary Support for Parks in 2026 and 2027
- Support Initiatives for Fire Resistance, Water Wise, and Sustainable Parks Management, to Promote Community Resilience
- Provide Educational Opportunities to Promote Pollinator Habitat, Ecologic Diversity, and Sustainability in our Parks
- Provide Support for Louisville IWMP
 - Recommendations, communications, and educational opportunities to reduce the use of pesticides in our community
 - Work Toward Measurable Pesticide Reduction in Parks and Surrounding Community
 - Work Toward Transparency in Pesticide use in PPL

2026 PPLAB Work Plan Summary

- Support and Advise PROS Projects Budgetary Support for Parks in 2026 and 2027
 - Memory Square and Rec Center Playground Design
 - Median Renovations
 - Identified 2026 CIP Projects
 - Development Review (Red Tail Ridge(?), Louisville East Entry)
- Review Parks Long Range Plan as Requested
- Provide Educational Opportunities to Promote Ecologic Diversity and Sustainability in our Parks
- PPLAB Bylaws Review and Update

2025 PPLAB Highlights

- Review and Approval of Restoration Plans and OPENING of Enclave and Sunflower Parks!
- Review of Dillon Road and McCaslin Median Renovation Plans, Cornerstone Flower Bed Replacements, Focusing on Native Plants, Fire Resistance, and Turf Replacement
- Initiation of Improvements and Arbor Day Planting of New Trees at Arboretum
- Japanese Beetle Mediation and Milkweed Pollinator Benefits Documents
- Review of Joint Lafayette/Louisville Mixed Use Athletic Fields and Tennis Court Upgrades
- Discussions of Pesticide use, Safety, and Continued Pesticide Reduction in Louisville
- Review of Louisville Comprehensive Plan and Long-Range Plan for Parks and Open Space
- Bee City Seed Swap at Louisville Library with Wild Ones Front Range Chapter, Winter Sowing workshop with Louisville Bloomin' Seniors, Earth Day, Every Day event, Pollinator Garden Tour, Davidson Mesa Native Plant and Pollinator walk, Member Participation in Bioblitz, and work to Reinstate Louisville Bee City USA as subcommittee of PPLAB

2026 PPLAB Priorities – Related to Council’s Work Plan

- Budgetary Support- *Core Services, Safety*
 - Support Park Operational budget needs for current 2-year budget cycle.
- Pollinator Habitat, Resilience, Fire Resistant, Water Wise and Sustainable Landscape Opportunities – *Core Services, Safety, Economic Vitality, Sustainability*
 - Sustainable landscape opportunities that are resilient, fire resistant, water wise, and support pollinator habitats. Collaboration with OSAB for pocket plantings and transitional planting areas from Parks to Open Space. Complete Cornerstone landscape repairs and continue work at Arboretum
- Education- *Core Services, Sustainability, EDI*
 - Find educational opportunities as outlined in PPLAB mission to support public’s knowledge and understanding of the Parks Operational program. Topics to include Fire Hardening, Sustainable Landscaping, Japanese Beetle mitigation, Mental Health benefits of Park Spaces and continuation of the Bee City USA designation through public outreach opportunities.

Alignment with Parks Departmental Work Plans

- Pollinator landscape plantings
 - Pursue additional opportunities for Arboretum landscape transformation
- Upgrade landscape plantings at Community Park to include water wise and pollinator friendly native plants
- Educational opportunities with PROS Marketing
 - Park Operations seasonally, Japanese Beetle and Emerald Ash Borer mitigation, Habitat Survival guide for drought, and water conservation
- **Staff collaboration with PLAY Boulder and Youth Forestry Corp planting 25 trees and education on urban tree care through Youth Corp**

Council Guidance

Opportunity for discussion/direction from Council:

- Anything else the board should consider related to the council work plan?
- Council guidance on the non-work plan items?

Important considerations:

- *Are all items in the purview of the Board and advisory to Council in nature?*
- *Is this what council needs from the board?*

Thank you!

- To the Parks and Public Landscape Advisory Board members for your leadership and time as volunteers!
- To staff for your amazing work and accomplishments!
- Next Steps:
 - Council looks forward to continued work with each board and commission
 - MAY 16 – Recommendations for interim budget due
 - MAY 16 – Recommendations for 2026 Council Work Plan due
 - NOVEMBER – Recommendations for 2026 Legislative agenda due

May 14, 2026



Intersection of Main & Spruce closed May 18–May 21 for installation of new mural