

2026 Council Work Plan

The Work Plan outlines Council priorities and action items that we can reasonably accomplish. These items are above and beyond the day-to-day work of the City and not reflective of everything the City does. For 2026, City Council will have the same four priorities as 2025: Economic Vitality, Core Service Delivery, Safety, & Housing. These priorities are viewed through two lenses: equity, diversity, & inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Front & Center Project, South Street Underpass

South Street Underpass, a pedestrian underpass connecting Highway 42 to Downtown Louisville, is in the design phase and construction is expected to begin in late 2026. Council directed staff to move forward with a design that would not close South Street to vehicular traffic.

Downtown Louisville is getting a glow up! The **Front & Center project** (implementation of the Downtown Vision Plan, a community-shaped vision for Downtown revitalization) is underway and construction is expected to begin in late 2026. The first phase of this project includes major improvements to the Steinbaugh Pavilion & plaza.

Visit LouisvilleCO.gov/ConeZone for most up-to-date information on these projects.

Public Safety

We've been working on a number of public safety improvements, including: pay increases for Police to improve recruitment, finalizing an intergovernmental agreement with Boulder Office of Disaster Management (ODM) to begin participation in ODM, considering options for our local WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) code, and a focus on community education for defensible space, home hardening, and disaster preparedness.

Wildfire resilience & home hardening updates

At the December 16, 2025 City Council meeting, Council discussed options for aligning with the state minimum Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) code, adding a city-wide ban on junipers, and city-wide defensible space landscaping standards to the City's home fire hardening code for structures. Council directed staff to draft an ordinance for the city-wide ban on junipers and will be holding additional meetings to review options for the City's WUI code and city-wide defensible space landscaping standards.

Comprehensive Plan Update

After a year and a half of community engagement, planning, and research by city staff and consultants, we are almost at the finish line for the Comprehensive Plan! Staff updated the draft based on Council and community feedback and will bring a new draft forward in January. On January 28th you can join us for an in-person open house to review the draft plan. Visit EngageLouisvilleCO.org for more details and to stay updated on this project, and sign up for city email bulletins at LouisvilleCO.gov/StayConnected to get engagement opportunities sent straight to your inbox!

Development Updates

Streamlining development

The Development Code Update will begin in 2026. This update will make it easier to navigate our code, ultimately allowing us to provide better customer service to anyone looking to build in Louisville. In addition, we will be hiring a consultant in 2026 to evaluate the city's impact fees, which are one-time charges imposed on new developments to fund infrastructure costs.

In the meantime, we've focused on **targeted amendments to our code**, including:

- Updated GDP standards (increased predictability)
- Removed minimum requirements for multi-family parking (state law)
- Created allowance for ADUs, beyond state law requirements (for example, we allow single-family detached, basements, and more flexibility)

Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Long-Range Plan: “Guidebook”

The Parks, Recreation & Open Space (PROS) Department is creating a new Guidebook to outline department priorities for the next 10+ years. The Guidebook includes two related plans:

- The Long-Range Plan: for Parks, Open Spaces, Recreation & Senior Center, and Coal Creek Golf Course
- The Trail System Plan: for trails and trail connections

Creation of the guidebook is a collaborative effort between city staff, elected and appointed officials, and the community. Much of our work so far has been focused on hearing from as many people as we can via survey, pop-events, and an open house. During the survey period, we received 2,173 total survey responses. A progress update, including the community engagement report, was presented to Council at the Jan 6, 2026 meeting. Go to LouisvilleCO.gov/Council to watch the full presentation and review the packet.

If you missed the first round of public input, don't worry! There will be more opportunities to provide feedback in 2026.

Visit EngageLouisvilleCO.gov to follow the project, and sign up for the Parks, Recreation, & Open Space newsletters at LouisvilleCO.gov/StayConnected to get updates straight to your inbox.

Affordable Housing

The City has contracted with Trestle Strategy Group to support City Council in developing a strategic framework for evaluating the use of approximately \$2 million in designated affordable housing funds. Recommendations for affordable housing will align with the Housing Plan (completed in 2024) and the Comprehensive Plan Update (nearing completion). Council held a work session on December 2 to provide input, and will meet again in early 2026.

Rail Service to Louisville

The City of Louisville has invested in the Downtown rail stop through planning and projects and continues to advocate strongly. In November 2025, Front Range Passenger Rail voted to add the Louisville stop, a major step forward and show of consistency between the multiple rail projects. The proposed location would be just north of the pedestrian underpass that connects South Street to downtown, between Front & Cannon Streets.

Preparing for Sundance in 2027, business assistance updates

Sundance Film Festival coming to Boulder

If you haven't heard, Sundance is coming to Boulder in 2027, and several City departments are working together with regional partners and organizations to take advantage of this unique tourism opportunity. Along with exploring options for events and resources, the Economic Vitality Committee is recommending Council consider festival licenses in alignment with neighboring communities. These licenses would allow short-term rentals in Louisville immediately before, during, and after Sundance. City Council will consider an ordinance in 2026, with details and options are still being fine-tuned.

Business assistance program updates

The city is continuing to foster business development through incentive programs, including the business assistance program and urban renewal programs.

Other Ward 2 updates

- At the October 7, 2025 City Council meeting, Council approved the purchase of 101 W. Cherry Street for public use, and potential options for the property will be presented to City Council in 2026.
- At the December 16, 2025 City Council meeting, Council approved a resolution updating the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant incentive program as recommended by the Historic Preservation Commission, which included increasing the maximum award amount.
- Polk/Dahlia is scheduled to be resurfaced in 2026. Staff will be seeking guidance from City Council in early 2026 for the configuration, providing a few different options.
- The City has organized a task force of Councilmembers (Dietrich Hoefner and Judi Kern) to work with the City attorney to explore strategies to address the impacts of Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport. Updates available at LouisvilleCO.gov/RMMA

LOUISVILLE BY THE NUMBERS

AS OF JAN. '26



Demographics

8
square miles

20,788
population

41.8
median age

59%
aged 18-64

\$835,000
median home value

\$149,159
median household income

Marshall Fire Recovery



469 returned home (of 550)



43 units under construction

Economic Vitality

~1,600
businesses

70%
under 5 employees

98%
under 100 employees

17 commercial sites for sale, average asking price \$2M

21 retail locations for lease, 3 for sale

26 industrial locations for lease

Louisville's largest industries by profession are professional, technology & scientific services, health care & social services, wholesale trade, finance & insurance

10% retail vacancy rate, aligning with national rate

2026 Balanced Budget

The City has passed a balanced budget for 2026 and has strong reserves. As with many cities, Louisville is experiencing increasing costs and flattening revenue growth.

\$96,774,471
budget total

\$31,372,120
budget general fund

2026 Budgeted Expenditures by Program

