

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board Agenda

**March 4, 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 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. Staff Updates
- VII. Board Updates
- VIII. Introduction of New Parks Superintendent-Chris Davis

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. Review of Memory Square and Rec Center Playground Design
- X. Discuss Hackberry Park Bridge
- XI. PROS Long Range Plan
- XII. Vote on 2026 Work Plan
- XIII. Discuss dates for the PPLAB joint meeting with Council
- XIV. Discussion Items for Next Meeting
- XV. Adjourn

Parks & Public Landscaping Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

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

Call to Order – Chairperson Jody Ash called the meeting to order at 6:48, Feb 4, 2026 (delayed start due to issues with Zoom).

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

Board Members Absent:

Jean Keil – absent (was intending to attend by Zoom, but there was a Zoom malfunction)

Staff Members Present:

Erik Swiatek, Parks Supervisor

Jill Muniz, Horticulture and Streetscape Supervisor

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes – The minutes from the January 7th, 2026, meeting were approved as written

Suggestion by John for future meetings to move Public Comments to occur before “Staff Updates”.

Staff Updates-

- New Superintendent has been selected, starting Feb 23. Erik and new superintendent will attend in March.
- No official invitation to Council work session this year, instead Council is holding 1 on 1 sessions. Scheduled for April Council meeting. This year there is no set presentation format. Aim for 15-minute presentation to Council, with 15 minutes for discussion.
- For March meeting, note from Brian Weber (via Erik): working through PROS Guidebook and Long-Range Plan. Updates will come in March meeting. Goals and Strategies will come to PPLAB in March.
- Playground replacements for Memorial Square and Rec Center are out to bid; concepts will come to PPLAB for review in March. PPLAB and community will be able to comment on designs and budget
- Pickleball designs are in the works; work will begin in June.
- Tennis courts at Centennial, resurfacing and other work are being discussed.
- Phase II of median work is under way. Phase III “penciled in”. No plans to bring this back to PPLAB for further review.
- Introduced Jill Muniz, Horticulture and Streetscape Supervisor.

Public Comments – no public comment (note, Zoom malfunctioning).

Introduction of Horticulture Supervisor-Jill Muniz

- Jody: What is your favorite plant? Jill: Petunia! Easiest to grow. Or blanketflower as a perennial as it is native and grows well!
- John: Soil regeneration – can we wrap a restorative process for soils into the Integrative Pets Management Program, this benefits insects and water efficiency, and stores carbon and enhances microbiome. Plus requires less fertilizer. Can we take this to our turf and flower beds, maybe even Open Space? How can we integrate regenerative processes to city landscapes? This may require transition towards more natives.
- Jill: soil in Louisville is great; the starting point is great. There are many old beds, but renovations are constrained by budget. Turf is not Jill’s area. All renovated beds will get some amendment. Most pots are and flower beds are amended with compost.
- Jody: note, soil is the largest reservoir of CO₂, which is part of the motivation for this effort.
- Athletic fields are difficult to treat because they are heavily programmed, and they make money.
- Jody to Jill: what are your biggest challenges? Jill: Community. We have many well-educated people. Jill was hired because of her qualifications, so it is difficult for her when her expertise is challenged. But she is always open to suggestions. Jill gets many emails from the public with questions.
- What is Jill’s role in designs before designs come to PPLAB? Jill reviews plant list of any contracted job in the city. Jill has upgraded City’s plant list

- list of recommended plants contractor should use. Jill's team designs the flower and perennial beds. Only the contracted beds are not designed by Jill's team. City plant list was upgraded in 2023, added to website later.
- John: Are there designs in progress for Community Park? Jill: in the budget for this year. Will probably start from scratch on many of the plants. Most trees will stay; City Forester will assess the trees. Some different seeding areas, but planting areas will not change in size. Jill's team is trying to get some of the original plants back in there but add more xeriscaping and add more native and pollinator friendly plants. This will move forward in spring and summer. Jill's team will take suggestions.

Community Park Beds- Discussion Item

- John: in **Community Park**, would be good to have host plants for butterflies – there are others besides Milkweed. Jill does not plan to add Milkweed to formal beds in the city; it is difficult to remove. Butterfly weed is an option.
- John has list of host plants for butterflies – he will send to Jill.
- Jody suggests the idea of “demonstration gardens” on different themes, like ‘bird friendly’ or a ‘sensory garden’ or a focus on a specific species. Could be accompanied by signage.
- David: is there an inventory of highly flammable plants? David worries about the fire risk of city plants. Answer: there is no list, but there no new junipers allowed; but they are not yet being removed.
- Jody: there are downsides to Junipers, but upright Junipers can also be lovely and are important for many birds. There are guidelines that dictate the distance such plantings should be from structures. We need to balance the approach.
- How can PPLAB support you, Jill, as a board? Jill: “this is it!” The presence of this board is helpful. Jill invites emails! It is important for us to support each other, rather than solely getting caught in the “bad” in something. Jill encourages everyone to approach horticulture team with respect – they work hard. The Horticulture and Parks teams in Louisville are really good, and work really hard, PPLAB can encourage community to recognize this along with other comments and interactions.

Flower bed and plantings at Arboretum

- Jody: flower bed and plantings at Arboretum. There has been community interest in this issue at previous PPLAB meetings. Jill: there are no current plans to increase plantings at the Arboretum. Erik: There are no resources to support expansion at the Arboretum right now. On the north side, Bermuda grass was seeded on top of old turf, so there is some bluegrass present there.
- Jody: How can we highlight the efforts and expertise of our Horticulture and Parks teams? Jill: Ginger does some advertising on social media – check it out! We could think of other signage.
- Jody to Jill: please reach out if there is anything we can do for you!

Work Plan

Updates to work plan for 2026:

- Budgetary Support – this will remain a top priority for our committee.
- Habitat, resilience – encourage Parks team to continue in their ongoing efforts in this area, with attention on Parks specifically.
- Education – important, last year Bee City produced an informational document on Japanese beetle mitigation. It went out in 2025 but too late, send out again in May of 2026.
 - Could encourage additional signage highlighting management successes (or things like pesticide free areas) in the Parks.
 - Highlight what the Parks Dept is already doing and how community members can participate or learn from the Parks Department.
 - Should we invite Ginger to learn how we work with her to promote Parks and Horticulture team efforts?
 - Scavenger hunt of plants around town?
- Outdoor Recreation Amenities – tennis courts and pickleball were big items last year. This is mostly under RAB, but we work with them.
 - Multiuse fields – this is something PPLAB can continue to support but it really an issue for RAB.
 - Bike racks – city council wants to put them in every park – Parks Dept doesn't hear many complaints on this issue
 - This issue (Outdoor Recreation Amenities) can be removed from PPLAB workplan going forward.
- Integrated Pest Management – how can we measure or demonstrate how we are reducing pesticide use? This is also on City Council's work plan as well – this item cross-references with Education. This is an important issue to PPLAB.
- PROS – this will stay on the Work Plan.
- Collaboration with other boards – plan joint meeting with OSAB. PPLAB will continue to work on this.
- General Maintenance Management Plan (GMMP) – we can remove this item
- Parks Long Range Plan – update coming in March.
- PPLAB Bylaws – will await notification from City.

New Items for consideration – is there a role for PPLAB in these items from City Council's Work Plan?

- How to get developers pay for maintenance of new parks?
- "Park in the north end"?

Board Updates-

Bee City is coming up with some programming ideas: taking care of soil, native plants, garden tour, nature walk. Bee City is trying to get integrated with the City and Open Space. How can we use volunteers?

Arbor Day also offers community engagement. Bee City does tabling at local fairs.

Question to Jill: is there an opportunity to take advantage of volunteers? One challenge is having a staff member oversee volunteers.

Approval of Calendar for 2026- The calendar for 2026 was approved as written.

Discussion Items for Next Meeting-

Introduction of new Parks Superintendent

Review of Memory Square and Rec Center Playground Design

PROS Long Range Plan

Vote on 2026 Work Plan

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Recreation & Senior Center

Option 1



For ages 2-5, including preschool

- Location: Same location as current age 2-5 structure
- Safety Surfacing: Pour-in-Place Rubber (color T.B.D)

Note: Swings to be replaced and installed in same location as current swings. Existing shade shelter to remain in current location.

Recreation & Senior Center



For ages 5-12, including summer camps

- Location: Same location as current age 5-12 structure
- Safety Surfacing: Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF)

Proposed by: Star Playgrounds with features by Playworld

Option 2



For ages 2-5, including preschool

- Location: Ages 2-5 relocated to center of playground
- Safety Surfacing: Pour-in-Place Rubber (color T.B.D)

Note: Swings to be replaced and installed in same location as current swings. Existing shade shelter to remain in current location.

Recreation & Senior Center



For ages 5-12, including summer camp

- Location: Ages 5-12 relocated to east end of playground
- Safety Surfacing: Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF)

Option 3



For ages 2-5, including preschool

- Location: Ages 2-5 relocated to center of playground
- Surfacing: Pour-in-Place Rubber (color T.B.D)

Recreation & Senior Center



For ages 5-12, including summer camps

- Location: Ages 5-12 relocated to east end of playground
- Surfacing: Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF)

Note: Swings to be replaced and installed in same location as current swings. Existing shade shelter to remain in current location.

Memory Square Park

Option 1



For ages 2-5



For ages 5-12

Safety Surfacing to remain Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) in all locations, with new Pour-in-Place (PIP) rubber at ADA access points

Note: Existing sand area to remain in current location. Swings to be replaced and installed in same location as current swings.

Option 2

Memory Square Park



For ages 2-5



For ages 5-12



Safety Surfacing to remain Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) in all locations

Note: Existing sand area to remain in current location. Swings to be replaced and installed in same location as current swings.

Option 3



For ages 2-5

Safety Surfacing to remain Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) in all locations

Note: Existing sand area to remain in current location. Swings to be replaced and installed in same location as current swings.

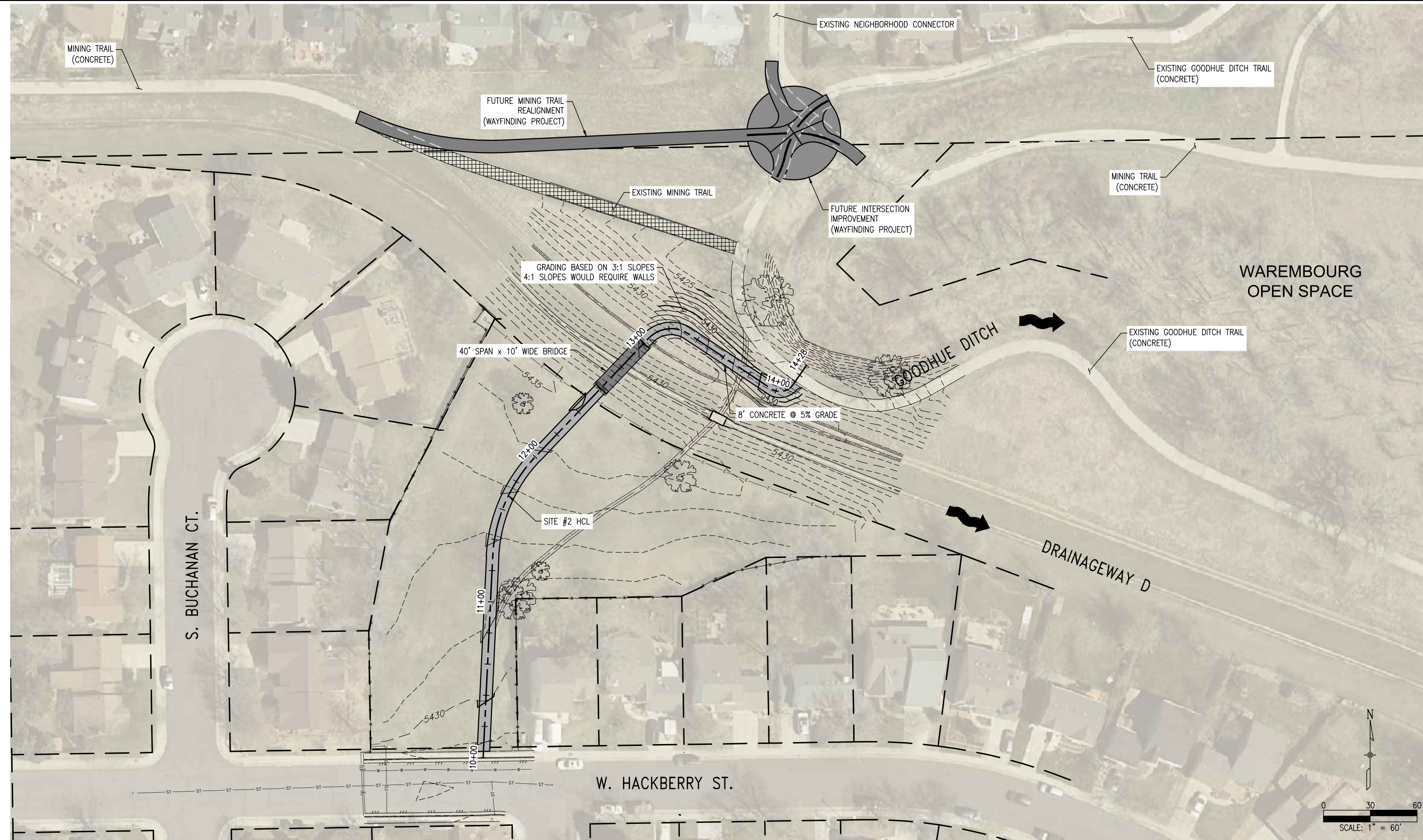
Memory Square Park



For ages 5-12

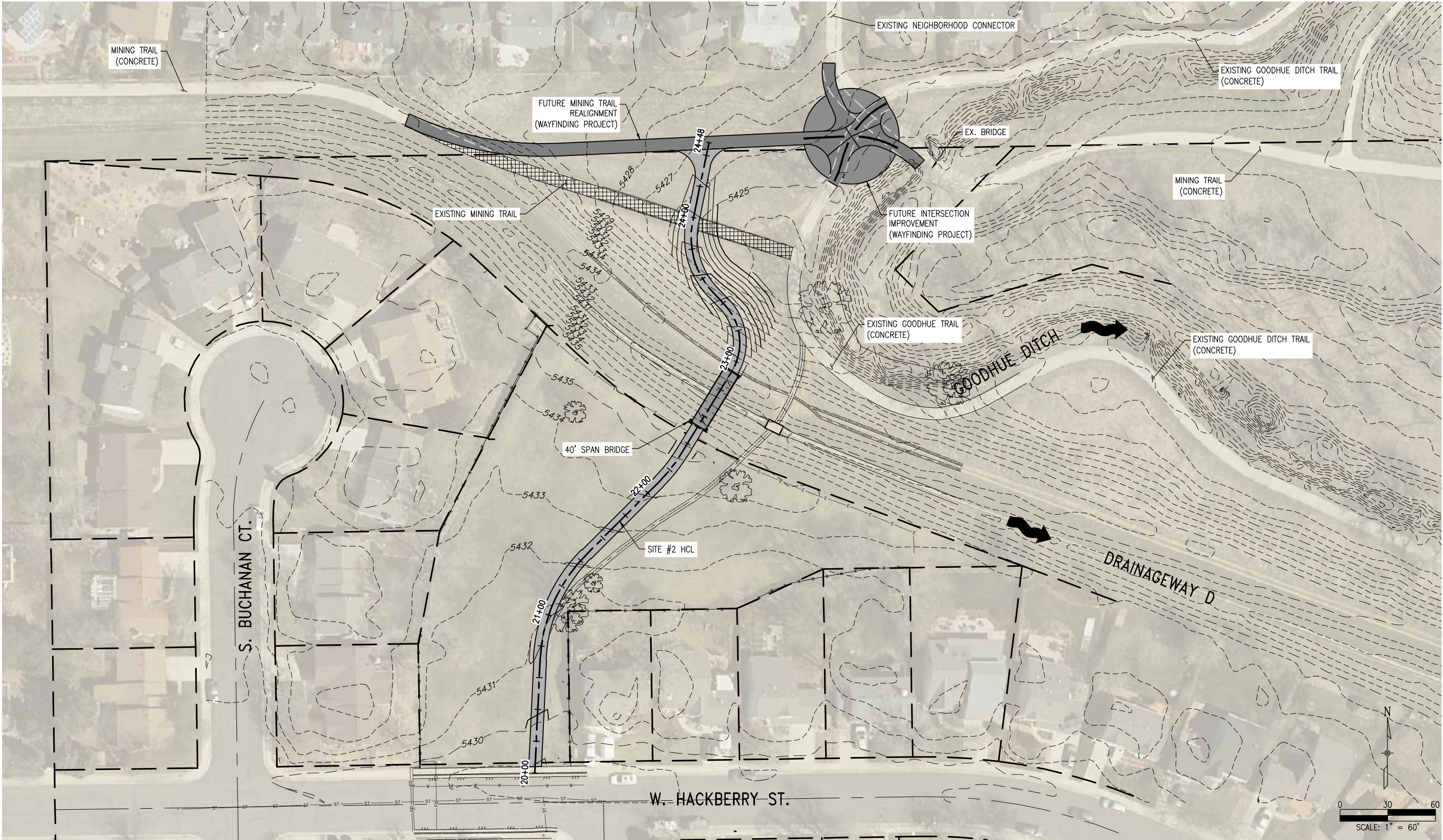
Proposed by: Sport Court of the Rockies with features by Play & Park

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Print Date: Feb 28, 2018			Sheet Revisions			Loris A DIVISION OF OTAK City of Louisville COLORADO • SINCE 1878	As Constructed		CITY OF LOUISVILLE 2017 NEW TRAILS OVERALL SITE PLAN SITE #2 – HACKBERRY ST. ALT B			Project No./Code	
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Horiz. Scale: As Noted Vert. Scale: As Noted							Revised:		Designer: SJB	Structure Numbers			
Unit Information Unit Leader Initials							Void:		Detailer: MAW				
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Unit Information	Unit Leader Initials

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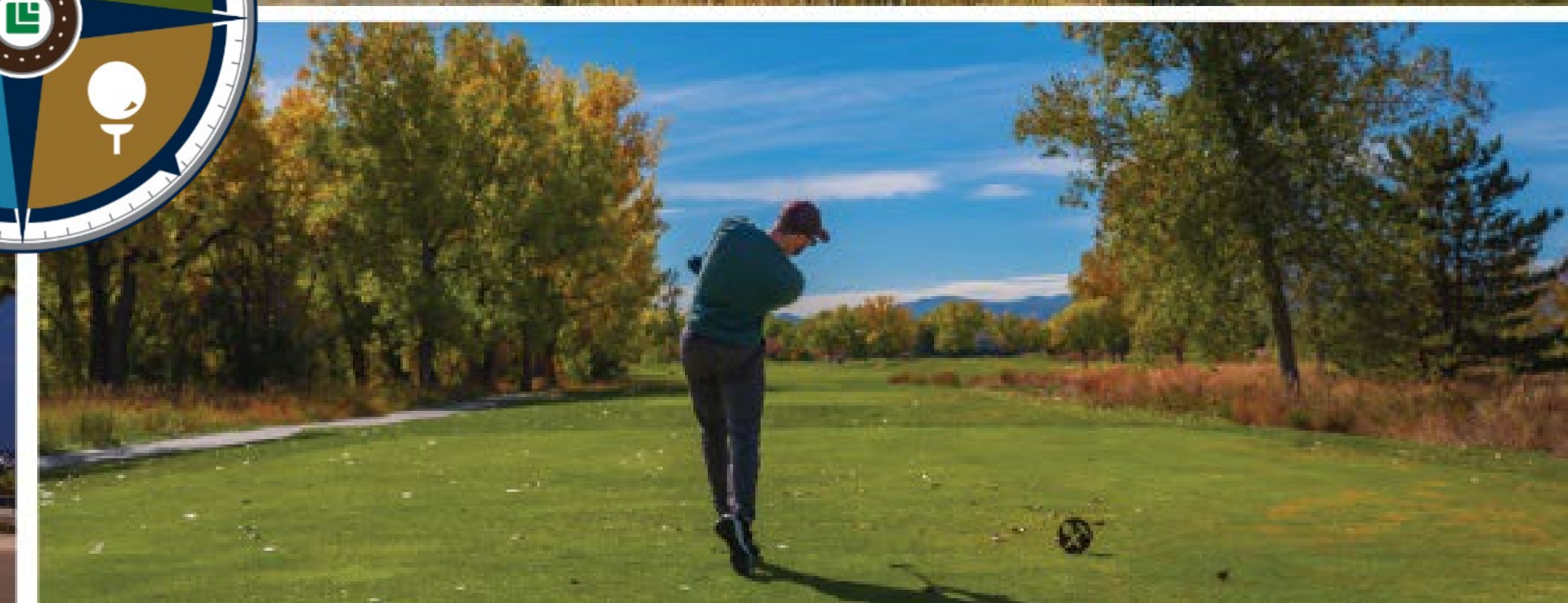
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As Constructed
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4



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PROS GUIDEBOOK

PPLAB Meeting #2

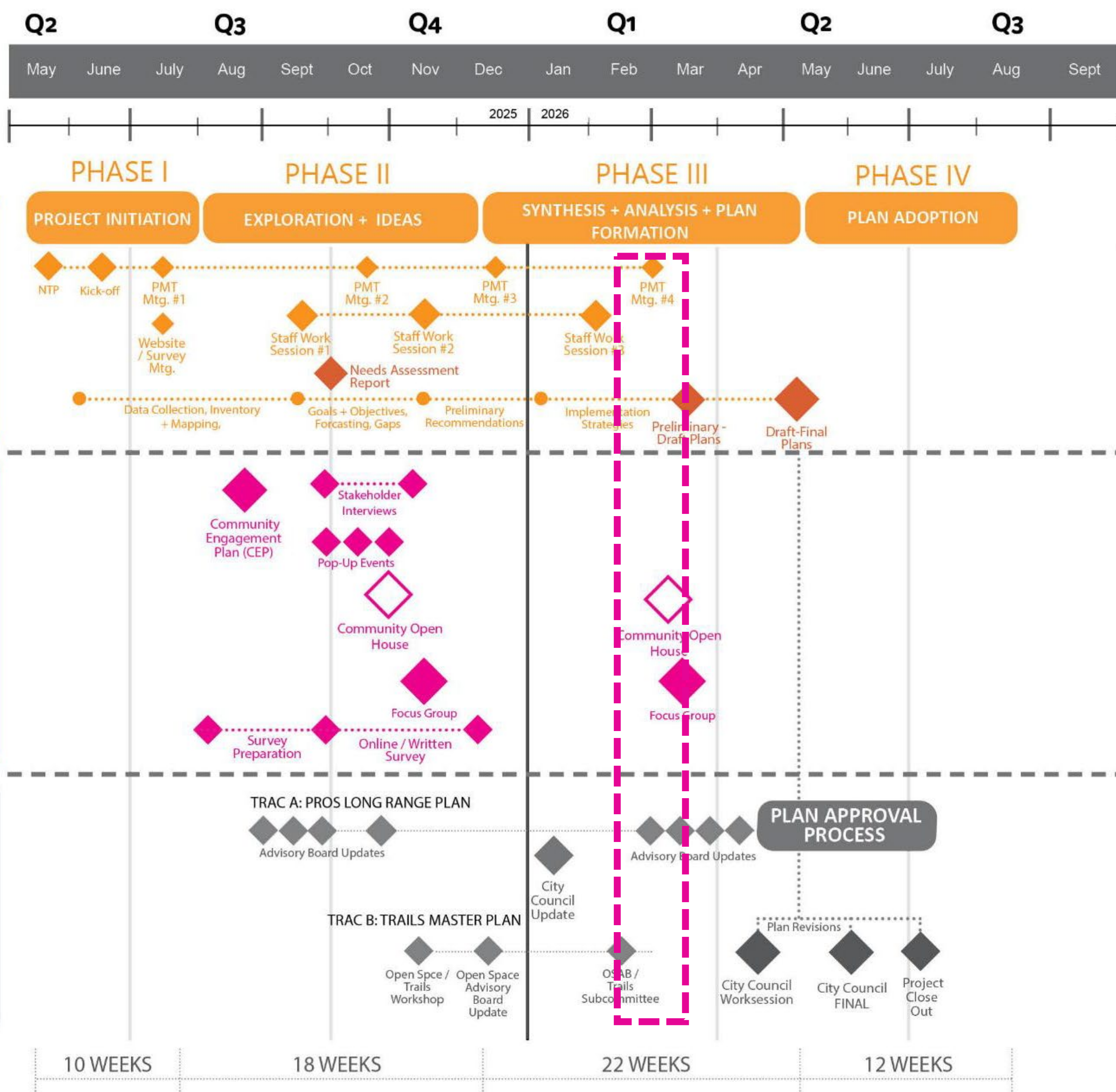
March 4, 2026

AGENDA



- **Project Schedule Update**
- **Community Engagement Findings**
- **Recommendations**
 - Guiding Principles
 - Draft Parks Goals
 - Draft Parks Strategies
- **Next Steps**





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PROJECT SCHEDULE UPDATE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS



Highlights



31,500 webpage views



766 statistically valid survey responses
(+/- 3.5% Margin of Error)



1,407 open-link survey responses



182 Open House #1 attendees
(10/29/25)



7 Pop-Up Events



18 stakeholders interviewed
(multiple topics)



25 Open Space and Trails Workshop participants
(11/14/25)

Parks Takeaways

What we heard from Community Open House #1, Community Survey, Stakeholders, and Advisory Boards. Not in any order of priority.



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CHALLENGES

-  Deferred maintenance and aging amenities (restrooms, shelters, parking)
-  Lacking outdoor sport courts, exercise equipment, and multi-purpose fields
-  Additional trail connections needed to parks
-  Safety at crossings and intersections near parks
-  Vegetation management for visibility and fire.

PRIORITIES

- Repair and enhance existing amenities 
- Develop outdoor recreation amenities based on documented community needs 
- Consider parks connections in development of trail system plan 
- Collaborate with Public Works on road crossings to ensure safe options for multi-modal access 
- Incorporate drought-tolerant landscaping 



RECOMMENDATIONS

Terminology



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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Department-wide core values that provide direction to both the PROS Long Range Plan and Trails System Plan.

- Govern the entire guidebook
- Restated in both **PROS LONG RANGE PLAN** and **TRAILS SYSTEM PLAN**

GOALS

Division-specific aspirations that support the Guiding Principles by clarifying each Division's aim and direction. The reasoning behind implementation action items

- Goals for Parks, Recreation and Senior Center, Open Space, and Golf to go in **PROS LONG RANGE PLAN**
- Goals for Trails to go in **TRAILS SYSTEM PLAN**

STRATEGIES

Measurable steps that allow each division to achieve their goals and assist the PROS Department in upholding their Guiding Principles.

- Strategies for Parks, Recreation and Senior Center, Open Space, and Golf to go in the **PROS LONG RANGE PLAN**
- Strategies for Trails to go in the **TRAILS SYSTEM PLAN**

Guiding Principles



Nurture existing assets

Maintain and invest in existing assets to ensure their continued success and quality, while thoughtfully planning new opportunities that reflect evolving community interests, needs, and priorities.



Optimize connections between people and places

Strengthen the connections that link people, places, and experiences to further provide safe, easy, and equitable access to amenities, programs, and services.



Reinforce commitment to health & wellness

Foster inclusive programs, spaces, and engagement opportunities that support a sense of belonging and promote physical, mental, and social well-being for people of all ages, interests, and abilities.



Tailor systems for sustainability and resilience

Shape plans and practices to steward the community's ecological, financial, and social interests and strengthen the long-term resilience of both natural and built environments.



Honor community resources

Provide high-quality services and community benefits through fiscal responsibility, operational efficiency, proactive leadership, and informed decision-making.

Department-wide core values

Provide direction to both the **PROS Long-Range Plan** and **Trails System Plan**



Draft Parks Goals



1

Prioritize maintenance of existing parks

2

Develop outdoor recreation amenities in parks

3

Reduce water use for landscaping

4

Grow the urban forest canopy

5

Enhance multi-modal connections between parks and the surrounding community

6

Support funding and partnerships

Draft Parks Strategies



1

Prioritize maintenance of existing parks

- Advance the **comprehensive asset management program** to identify deferred maintenance priorities
- Develop **repair/replace schedules** for amenities such as equipment, site furnishings and play structures
- Prioritize **parks maintenance Capital Improvement Program**, including continual investments in foundation infrastructure such as irrigation, hardscape and landscape.

Draft Parks Strategies



2

Develop outdoor recreation amenities in parks

- **Inventory site amenities** to reveal missing elements needed to meet defined level of service standards.
- Develop and implement **outdoor recreation amenities** based on documented needs, desires and priorities established by community, staff and stakeholder input.
- Develop standard '**kit of parts**' for each park based on classification (i.e. pocket parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks).

Draft Parks Strategies

3

Reduce water use for landscaping

- Encourage **low water use plant material** and rainwater collection for plants and irrigation at city parks.
- Introduce **low-water landscaping** techniques for new park development and when retrofitting existing grass areas.
- Encourage **native plant materials** that don't require significant watering and also support pollinators

Draft Parks Strategies

4

Grow the urban forest canopy

- **Enhance urban canopy in public right-of-way** and economic zones such as the McCaslin, South Boulder Rd and Main St business corridors.
- **Promote diversity** through advising on tree selections during the development review process and planting on city managed properties.
- Gather **Forestry input** on objectives (such as inventory, pruning rotation, EAB, irrigation, etc.)

Draft Parks Strategies



5

Enhance multi-modal connections between parks and the surrounding community

- Ensure underserved communities have **equitable access** to parks.
- Collaborate with Public Works on road crossings to ensure **safe multi-modal access**.
- Promote development of **trail system plan**.

Draft Parks Strategies



6

Support funding and partnerships

- Foster and expand collaboration with **partners internal to the City of Louisville** such as Community Development, Public Works, Sustainability and other PROS Divisions
- Foster and expand collaboration with **partners external to the City of Louisville** such as area sports leagues, event organizers, and industry associations.
- Consider on-going **staffing capabilities and resource needs** in achieving the goals of this plan, completing capital projects
- Utilize department resources for **communication, project management and administration** for support and expertise
- Coordinate with **City partners and development stakeholders** to evaluate funding mechanisms that support park infrastructure needs.

Next Steps

- Draft Guidebook Development
(PROS Long Range Plan and Trails System Plan)
- Advisory Board Updates (PPLAB, RAB, YAB, OSAB)
- Community Open House
- City Council Update
- City Council Presentation for Adoption

March-May

March 4 - April 8

March 12

April 14

June 2



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Thank you!



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PPLAB 2026 PPLAB Work Plan

Requests are in order of priority and will adjust to align with City Council Work plan.

Maintain what we have with a focus on Sustainability, Fire Hardening, Economic Vitality, EDI thought actions targeted at the objectives listed

			Core Services	Affordable Housing	Economic Vitality	Sustainability	EDI	Budgeted	2026 ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Program Area	PPLAB Recommendations	Outcomes	Council Priority						
Budgetary Support	Support Park Operational budget needs for current 2 year budget cycle. Keep communications regrading the underfunding of Parks Operations anticipated in 2027	PPLAB and City Council communications to support funding for Park Operations	X						
Pollinator Habitat, Resilience, Fire Resistant, Low-water, Sustainable Landscape Opportunities	Sustainable landscape opportunities that are resilient fire resistant low water pollinator habitats. Focus on opportunites and recommendations within the parks system.	Staff to continue enhancing and renovating landscaping beds throughout city promoting resilient, fire resistant and pollinator plantings.	X		X	X		X	
Education	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, Mental Health benefits of Park Spaces and continuation of the Bee City USA designation through public outreach opportunities.	Continue to support Park Operations in city publications. Various educational events hosted by sub-committee, Open Space and Parks for community supporting bio-diversity pollinators. Art Contest for Elementary and Middle School students.	X			X	X	X	
Integrated Pest Management	Continue to support the reduction of pesticides use in Parks and City maintained properties. Encourage community members to reduce pesticide use and enhance community education. Increase transparency on pesticide use on city properties. Review current Integrated Weed Pest Management (IWPM).	PPLAB recommendations, communications and educational opportunities. Work toward measurable pesticide reduction in parks and surrounding community. Work towards transparency of use in PPL.	X			X	X		
PROS Projects - Playground: Memory Square and Rec Center. Median renovations and Identified 2026 CIP projects, Development Review	Design process for Memory Square and Rec Center playground renovation 2026, Median renovations. Development as requested.	Review and provide input as requested by staff. Medians-incorporate sustainability, local materials, and more perennials.	X			X	X	X	
Collaboration with other Advisory Boards or Commissions	Collaboration opportunities to work with city advisory boards and commission to further enhance the community. OSAB, RAB, LRC- as examples.	Outdoor Amenities subcommittee participation with RAB designees. Future OSAB collaborative meeting	X				X		
Parks Long Range Plan	Long Range planning	Review as requested	X		X	X	X	X	
PPLAB Bylaws Review and Update	Work with City Clerk, Staff Liaison and Advisory members to review and update PPLAB Bylaws.	TBD City Clerk							