



Grand Junction Forestry Advisory Board Minutes

May 7, 2026

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Joseph Chandler
Mollie Freilicher
Cody Kennedy
Dan Komlo
Kamie Long
Earl Perry
Tanya Travis

Board Members Absent:

Robert Ballard
Bill Cooper

Guests Present:

City Staff Present:

Rob Davis, Parks Supervisor, Forestry and Open Space
Triston Harrison, Admin Support
Cameron Walters, Communications Specialist
Anna Wirth, Admin Specialist

Meeting called to order by Kamie Long at 8:31 AM.

Approval of Minutes

Kami motioned to accept the April minutes with the change of adding Jamie Beard as present at the last meeting, Tanya seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Public Comments

No Public Comments.

New Business

Arbor Day Review

The layout worked well and will be adopted again next year.

Tree climbing: Kids' tree climbing has gotten popular enough to possibly add another tree next year to keep lines shorter. However, there is no good spot that works with the layout and Earl suggested using a third rope or swing on the same tree instead since some kids just want to swing instead of climb.

Seedling delivery program: Feedback from participants of the seedling delivery program was extremely positive. Everyone was able to receive at least one of their first choices for either the first or second tree.

Amazon inquired about volunteer opportunities delivering seedlings. This might be an option for next year; Cameron has their contact info to reach out in 2027.

Tanya suggested a modified process for prepping seedlings prior to delivery. Grab all seedlings for your route first and then sack them up to avoid having to go back and forth.

Silent tree auction: The process for the Silent Tree auction can be improved by making sure trees are numbered chronologically and arranged in a snake-like pattern. Also, the tree numbers will have to be written more noticeably on the auction sheets. The raffle tickets on the trees worked well, handing one ticket to the bidder and writing their name on the ticket of the tree.

A couple of people complained about having to stay for the planting demonstration after winning a tree. Make signage for tree planting requirements bigger and bolder. In case a tree is not being claimed, all the bucket bids should be kept to determine the next highest bidder.

Notable Tree Walk: A suggestion was made to move the Notable Tree Walk to a weeknight to increase participation in the program. Cameron proposed putting the tour in the summer guide with dates having to be finalized in February/March for editing. Another option for the summer guide would be a basic tree pruning class.

Urban wood: Ways to increase urban wood auction prices were discussed. One suggestion included advertising urban wood to people who know how to work with it and may be willing to pay higher prices. Reaching out to woodworkers ahead of time, possibly through social media, was recommended. Roadside banners were also mentioned as a way to advertise the wood slab auction.

Rob suggested another idea for the wood slabs: finding a vendor willing to trade boards in exchange for a few finished wood products that could then be auctioned at a higher price.

Seedlings: Having grabbers available was a great help.

It was suggested that laminated tree description signs only be printed one-sided so descriptions for trees that are no longer available can be removed more easily. Another option discussed was using "sold out" stickers on descriptions of trees that had run out.

The small QR code stickers with planting instructions were well received but ran out, so more will be needed next year. Additional copies of the "how to plant a container tree" handout will also be needed.

Arbor Day Numbers

Trees sales: \$3523

Urban Wood sales: \$900

Silent tree auction cost: about \$4000

Overall Arbor Day raised: close to \$11000

Sponsorships: \$4000 from SavATree; \$2500 from Waste Management

Dan asked for stronger recognition ideas for Waste Management's sponsorship. Mollie suggested stickers as one option. Joe also mentioned that WD Yards may be interested in sponsoring next year. Additional sponsorship opportunities should be explored to help attract more partners and increase overall sponsor engagement.

Shirts were very popular and possible sales strategies were being discussed such as giving the first 200 shirts away and selling the rest, having a special version for sale or selling t-shirts online year-round.

Cody brought up concerns about possible restrictions on making money off shirts to raise funds for trees or other programs and said he will check with the city attorney.

Forestry Bylaws

Rob talked to Jamie Beard who recommended waiting until a council liaison is in place to discuss forestry bylaws.

Real-Estate Trifold

Rob discussed distributing the trifolds through local real estate channels. Cody mentioned the local real estate commission and said he would connect Rob with the commission's president.

Cameron suggested reaching out to the group *Colorado Greets*, which provides new homeowners with folders containing local business coupons and community information. He will email them to see if they are interested in including the trifold in their welcome packets.

IRA Irrigation Grant

This is a grant through the Colorado state forest service which covers full irrigation installs in the ROW. When the grant was first written it was intended for low-income households. Discussion was had to expand the program to any suitable spaces that maximize the amount of possible tree plantings for one property. Locations are picked based on lack of existing tree canopy, proximity to existing struggling trees that might benefit and available space, preferably corner lots which maximize planting space. The 5-year grant was originally \$200,000 with \$50,000 having been spent last year and Rob looking to spend about the same again this year. Last year about 15 irrigation systems were installed.

Market on Main 2026

Open sign-up spots were reviewed, and a few spots were filled. Setup time was set for 4:45pm. Plans for the Master Gardeners evening the following week were discussed. The event will take place on Wednesday, 5/13, from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Clifton Branch Library. Setup is scheduled for 4:15 p.m.

Rules and reg

Rob set a time to revisit.

Kamie, Mollie, Joe, Earl and Rob will meet on Monday, May 18th from 8:30am-9:30am at the parks office.

Forestry Updates

Westlake

Westlake Park is being heavily forested, with 50 new trees planted so far. Disc golf is one of the main uses of the park, and the new plantings are being arranged to help shape fairways, in coordination with local disc golfers.

The playground at the park has been removed. Cody noted that there are grants available for accessible playgrounds that could support future improvements.

Rob reported ongoing issues with the pump and irrigation system, and John is currently working on repairs.

The group also discussed the recent freeze and the resulting damage to trees throughout the park.

Spring of Memorial Trees

Rob provided an update on this year's planting efforts, highlighting that roughly 80 street trees are already in place. He also emphasized that new trees were added across a well-balanced selection of parks.

12 memorial tree requests were received this spring compared to the usual average of 5.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 10:02 a.m.

Next Meeting – June 4 at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wirth