



Denver Resilient Landscapes

Advisory Committee #1

07/29/2025

Virtual hosted via Zoom

Time: Jul 29, 2025 04:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87406829272?pwd=OTsCmBcUCn3h7BTJqebdEWgrsbfRfK.1>

Attendees

Denver Dept of City Planning & Development (CPD):

Michelle Teller (Project Manager), Alisa Childress (Project Manager), Jen Kim (Project Team), Kyle Dalton (Regulatory Manager)

Superbloom (SPRB):

Stacy Passmore, Diane Lipovsky

Clarion:

Jenny Baker

Advisory Committee:

Present: Brenda Carrasco, Anna Gray Anderson, Victoria Bloom, Nicholas Emenhiser, Suzanne Serna, Joshua Eldridge, Brandon Johnson, Christopher Woodburn, Greg Fisher, Melissa Horn, Elise Bupp, Sarah Cawrse, Deryn Davidson

Absent: Maria Rojas, Hayley Shroeder, Craig Garza

Agenda + Notes:

1. Introductions (20 minutes) (CPD)
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Agenda for Today
 - c. Committee Intros & Introductory Questions (SPRB)
2. Advisory Committee Expectations (10 min) (CPD)
 - a. Makeup and members
 - b. Communication
 - c. How your feedback is going to be used
 - d. Poll

Meeting recording poll:

- One member voted not to record these meetings.

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- It was later confirmed that the single vote for no recording was incorrectly entered. The consensus was that it is okay to record future meetings.
3. Project Summary (20 min) (CPD)
 - Kickoff meeting for the Denver Resilient Landscapes Project
 - Introduction of city staff, consultants, and advisory committee members
 - Purpose: to review existing landscaping regulations, align with new state legislation, and develop climate-resilient, water-wise, and equitable landscaping standards for new development and redevelopment in Denver.
 4. Report #1: Existing Regulatory Frameworks (15 minutes) (SPRB)
 - a. How landscape requirements exist today
 5. Questions & Topics for Discussion (20 minutes) (SPRB)
 - Discussion Question 1: What do you value in Denver's Landscapes?
 - Participants emphasized that values must be clearly defined and community-driven if the code update is going to be successful and long-lasting.
 - Some participants indicated that:
 - It was hard to choose just one, as multiple values – like equity, climate resilience, ecological health, and water conservation – were all deeply interrelated.
 - Context matters – different sites or communities might prioritize different values.
 - Discussion Question 2: What ideas do you have on how to make this project a success?
 - Overall: Success means community trust, practical outcomes, and measurable improvements in Denver's landscapes – especially in areas most in need.
 - Broad Community Engagement
 - Clear, Coordinated Regulations
 - Equitable and Scalable Incentives
 - Education and Behavior Change
 - Implementation & Follow-Through
 - Open Discussion Topics
 - Desire for incentives for existing homeowners to transition to water-wise landscaping (e.g. rebates, Garden-in-a-Box programs).
 - There was a question on how new code might apply to Chapter 59 properties. City staff confirmed that the project will consider landscaping requirements for properties zoned in Former Chapter 59.
 - Discussion about integrating education, outreach, and maintenance accountability, especially for tree planting.

- Agreement on the need for accessible public information on current programs like Denver Water turf replacement rebates
- End of Meeting Discussion
 - Applicability to Existing Properties
 - Question raised by Ayn Slavis (District 3): Will the advisory group consider incentives for properties not undergoing redevelopment?
Response from Diane Lipovsky (Superbloom): This is a current topic of interest that will be explored during the project, in addition to what triggers (e.g., ADU addition) might apply landscape updates, The project team is considering how to support voluntary change.
 - A symposium later in 2025 will:
 - Share existing resources
 - Gather ideas for new incentive programs
- Existing Rebates + Awareness
 - Brenda Carrasco shared a concern:
 - Many residents are unaware of Denver Water programs like turf removal rebates, and Garden-in-a-Box kits.
 - Superbloom acknowledged the need for better outreach. It was noted that Denver Water is part of the Interagency Working Group. Greg Fisher from Denver Water offered to provide further information at a future meeting if the group desires.
- Communication & Transparency Gaps
 - Multiple comments emphasized:
 - Regulations are spread across ~30 documents .
 - It's unclear which rules are required vs. recommended .
 - Suggestions:
 - Create a centralized, easy-to-navigate public website.
 - Include:
 - Clear rules
 - Incentive links
 - Educational tools and graphics
- Long-Term Maintenance & Accountability
 - Several speakers raised the issue of:
 - Trees dying after planting due to lack of care
 - Developers needing to take more responsibility for landscape
 - Suggestions:
 - Improve education about ongoing care
 - Consider enforceable maintenance requirements
- Overall Sentiment



- Strong Interest in:
 - Supporting both public and private landowners
 - Expanding incentives and education
 - Making the code more accessible, especially to residents and small developers
 - Recognition that successful implementation depends on:
 - Clear communication
 - Ongoing collaboration
 - Equitable engagement across neighborhoods
6. Wrap-up, Goodbyes, Next Steps (5 min) (SPRB)
- Meeting notes and presentation slides will be posted to the website and emailed to Advisory Committee members.
 - Staff will reach out to find a time that works for subsequent meetings.