



Denver Resilient Landscapes

Advisory Committee #2

2:00 to 4:00 pm

September 3rd, 2025



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Agenda

1. **Introductions** (15 minutes)
2. **Recap from Meeting #1** (5 minutes)
3. **Project Updates** (10 minutes)
 - **Best Practices**
4. **Public Engagement** (10 minutes)
5. **Break Out Rooms** (40 minutes)
 - **From priorities to outcomes**
6. **Share Outs** (25 minutes)
 - **Agreeing on path forward**
7. **Next Steps** (5 minutes)

Meeting Purpose

1. To inform the committee what has been accomplished since last meeting.
2. To evaluate public input thus far and identify measurable outcomes to achieve community vision.

Creating Resilient Landscapes for Denver

What is a Resilient Landscape?
Think low-water use, survives drought and extreme heat, supports pollinators, and reduces runoff from storms.

About the Denver Resilient Landscapes Project
Over the next year, Denver will update its requirements with the goal of having landscapes designed to thrive in our climate changes.

Updating the landscaping requirements helps build long-lasting, resilient, and engaging places for people and the environment.

Who Does This Apply To?
This project is focused on new development and redevelopment of all residential, commercial or industrial spaces.

Project Goals

- Increase Shade & Reduce Urban Heat
- Reduce Water Use
- Support Pollinators and our Ecosystem
- Reduce Stormwater Runoff with Living Plant Material
- Support Food Systems
- Improve Air Quality
- Mitigate Fire Risk
- Educate and Connect with the Community

Project Timeline

Survey Pop-Up Events Survey Pop-Up Events Open House

Spring Summer Fall Winter

¿Cómo se Define Paisaje Resiliente?

Los paisajes resilientes están diseñados para ser estéticos, funcionales y de bajo mantenimiento. Contribuyen a revitalizar la ciudad, purificar el aire, gestionar las aguas pluviales y reducir costos a largo plazo.

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Césped funcional
El césped funcional abarca áreas destinadas a juegos, deportes, recreación, uso para mascotas, tránsito peatonal y eventos temporales.

Césped no funcional
El césped no funcional es aquel que se emplea exclusivamente con fines decorativos, como en transeos estrechos, medianas de calles o el césped en áreas con escaso tránsito peatonal o uso público.

Residencial

Centro de la ciudad

Comercial

Calles

Denver Resilient Landscapes

Denver is getting healthier, greener, and more resilient than native plants.

Climate Resilient
Plants are more resilient during times of water, cooling, and stormwater.

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Advisory Committee #1 Recap

- **What we heard:**
 - Project success means community trust, practical outcomes, and measurable improvements in Denver's landscape.
 - Future rules need to be equitable and context based.
 - There is a need for better public education and outreach around existing programs and opportunities.

The Value of your Feedback

What will your feedback and direction inform?



The priorities for the city to focus on



The details of what we will require



How we measure success



The framework of the code; what it looks like



The path forward











Focusing this meeting on how to get measurable, practical outcomes.
Focusing future meetings on design outcomes & how to expand public knowledge of existing programs.

Project Updates

- ✓ **Survey #1** Completed
- ✓ **5 pop-ups** completed (*Dartmouth Gulch, Wash Park, City Park, Civic Center Eats*)
- ✓ **200+ community interactions** at pop-ups
- ✓ **3 developer and consultant connections** (*ULI, Denver Technical Advisory Board & HBA*)
- ✓ **Landscape Context** report completed
- ✓ **Existing Conditions** completed
- ✓ **Best Practices** report underway
- ✓ **~10 meetings** with regional groups, agency and community partners
(*One Water Leaders, West Wash Park NA, 3 inter-agency working group meetings, CSU, Boulder, & more*)
- ✓ **Regional media awareness** (*Denverite, BioCycle, ASLA Colorado & more*)

Best Practices

Highlights

-  **Landscaping minimum coverage** on all new projects and redevelopment projects of a specified size
-  **Tree preservation** requirements
-  **Reduce minimum tree & plant size** requirements
-  **Turf and/or synthetic turf** limits
-  **On-site stormwater management standards**, performance expectations, and/or maximum impervious surface
-  Establish clear **irrigation requirements**
-  Establish clear **soil expectations** (amendments, testing, volumes, etc.)
-  Limits on **heat-retentive or leaching materials** (rubber, plastic, etc)

Public Engagement Findings

What we heard so far:

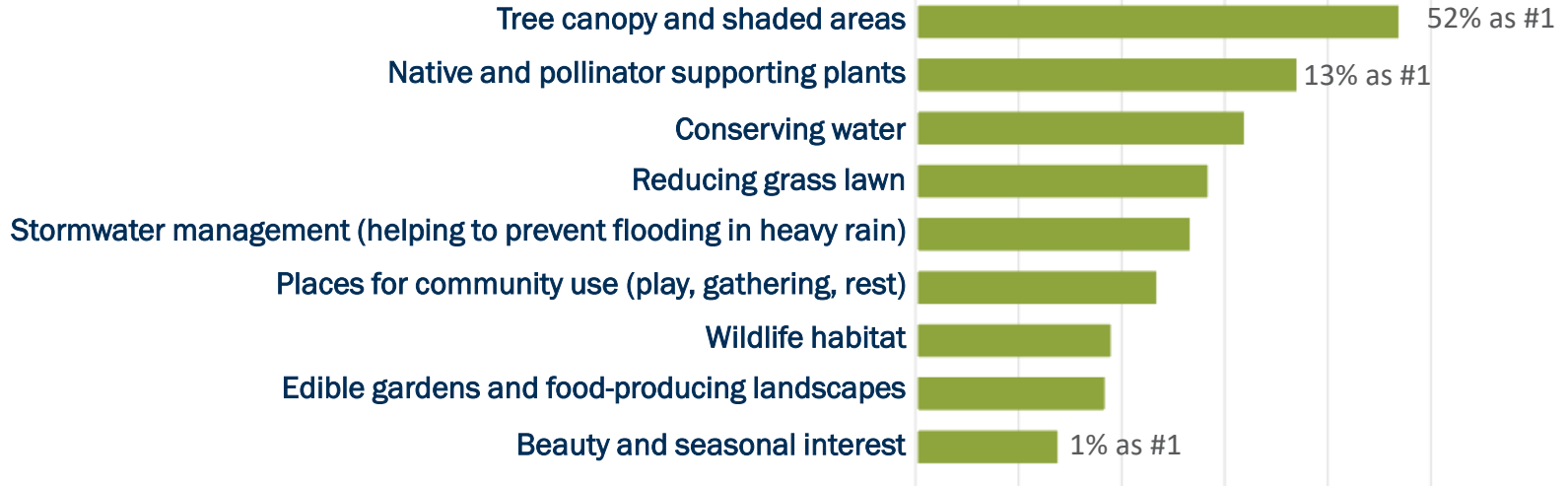
- **478 survey responses**
 - Distributed through social media, project & partner newsletters, website, Council Offices and Registered Neighborhood Organizations, professional groups, and during community events
- **27,557 interactions with outreach strategies**
 - Includes people who opened emails, visited webpage, or interacted with social media



	# of Actions	Estimated Reach
Core Messages	6	n/a
Emails	7	1,036
Website	5	1,825
DS News	1	2,402
Twitter	4	773
Instagram	2	1,012
NextDoor	10	5,898
Earned Media	1	0
Facebook	2	14,611
Overall Total	32	27,557

Public Engagement Findings

What landscape requirements should we prioritize to promote a more climate resilient city?



*Question was asked as a rank choice**

Public Engagement Findings

In areas where grass lawn is not needed or sustainable, what would you like to see instead?



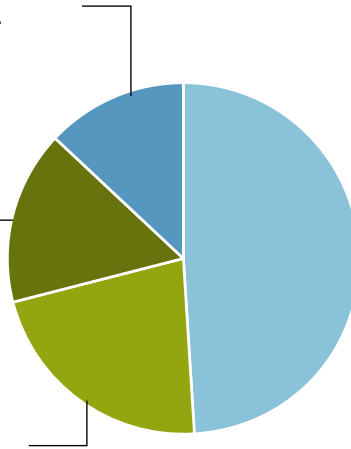
13% Mix of plants within gravel, river rock, or cobble



22% Low groundcover or water-wise lawn replacement



16% Mixed, woody shrub garden

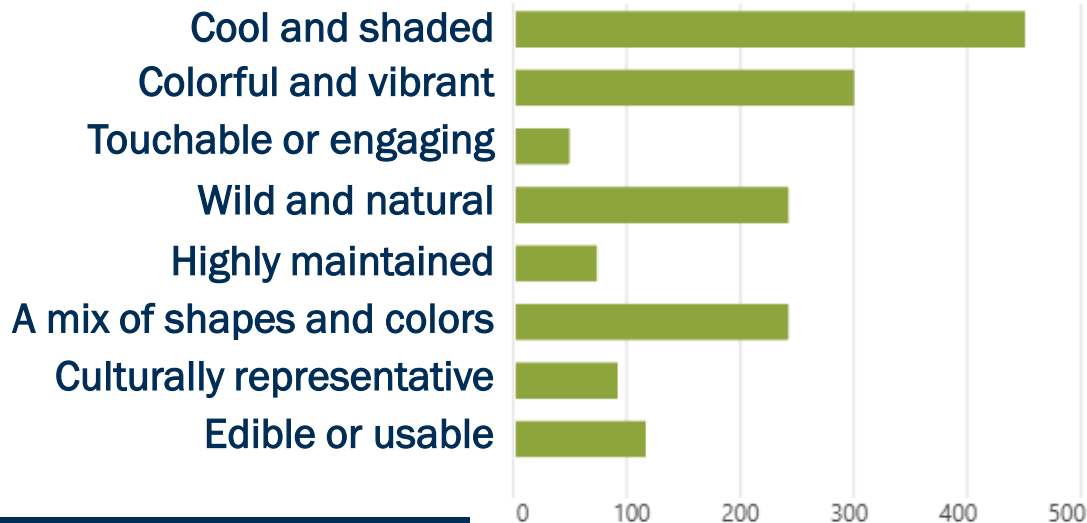


49% Flower, pollinator friendly, meadow or ornamental grass garden plantings



Public Engagement Findings

What do you want Denver's landscape to feel like when you walk around your neighborhood and look around?



Public Engagement Findings

What should be prioritized for non-residential areas?

Trees and Shade



Many participants expressed the desire for shade, tree canopy, and the replacement of lost trees.

Water Conservation



Participants expressed a general preference for native, drought-resistant plants, reducing grass lawns, and efficient irrigation systems.

Native Plants and Pollinator Support



Many participants expressed that native grasses, wildflowers, and other plants that support wildlife would be good replacement for grass lawns.

Green, Living Landscapes



Participants called for low-water use landscapes that are green and living. Many participants discouraged 'rockscaping' because it increases urban heat, does not support wildlife, and is not aesthetically pleasing.

Support and Education



Several participants highlighted the need for public education, as well as incentives and programs to help residents transform and maintain their landscapes.

Flexibility and Equity



Some participants expressed that the rules should not be a "one size fits all approach" and must consider the type of property and burden to homeowners.

Break Out Room Instructions



- **We will have three randomly assigned break out rooms facilitated by the team.**
- **We'll talk through ideas on how to take community vision and turn it into:**
 - Outcomes (what does success look like)?
 - Barriers (where do we anticipate the challenges)?
 - Metrics (how do we measure success)?
 - Additional community input needed?
- **Every idea is valuable to discuss**
- **Listen, be kind, and respect everyone's opinion which may be different than your own**

Break Out Groups

(8-10 minutes per question)

Now that we know communities' top priorities are **trees**, supporting **pollinators**, and reducing **water** use, what are some specific outcomes we want to see?

What are the **challenges** to achieving those outcomes?
What **barriers** do we anticipate?

What are ways that we can
measure success of these
outcomes?

What **additional input** do we need from community to move these outcomes into tangible requirements?

Share Outs

- One person from each team to share the key takeaways

Next Steps

- Using the information today to inform Survey #2 related to design & outcomes for community.
- Next Meeting on 10/7 from 4-6pm, focused on design outcomes

Thank you!