

Tree and Landscape Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda

May 21, 2026

10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers, 305 SW A Street

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85428847432>

AGENDA

Members

- 1 Reagan Roth
- 2 Gulizar Baggson
- 3 Helen Lampkin
- 4 Nathan Lembke
- 5 Ralph Webber, Chairperson
- 6 Jeannie McIntire
- 7 Mark Lankford

Ex Officio

Holly Hook, City Council

Staff

Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager
Tyler Cheek, Horticulturist
Haley Deatherage, Horticulturist

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes - April 16, 2026 *

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

3. Planting Project – SE 8th Street Tree Replacements *
4. Native and Pollinator Landscape Ordinance *

OTHER BUSINESS

5. Parks Updates
6. Planning Updates

ADJOURNMENT

Tree and Landscape Advisory Board

April 16, 2026

10:00 am

City Hall, 305 SW A Street, Bentonville, AR 72712

MINUTES

Attendance			
Member	Attendance	Ex Officio	Attendance
1 Reagan Roth	Absent	Holly Hook , City Council	Online
2 Gulizar Baggson	In person	Staff Shelli Kerr, Comprehensive Planning Manager Baylea Birchfield, Comprehensive Planner II Tyler Cheek, Urban Forrester Haley Deatherage, Horticulturist	In person In person In person In person In person
3 Helen Lampkin	In person		
4 Nathan Lembke	In person		
5 Ralph Weber	In person		
6 Jeannie McIntire	Online		
7 Mark Lankford	Absent		

1. Call to Order

Ralph called the meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Helen made a motion to approve the minutes for March 19, 2026; Nathan seconded. All in favor, motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Tree Canopy Assessment and Reforestation Plan *

Shelli submitted revisions to PlanItGeo regarding corrections to the map reference numbers. We are working to finalize the documents soon and asked for any remaining comments before completion.

He also identified a typo on page 9 under “City-Wide Tree Canopy Change,” which Shelli has already forwarded to PlanItGeo for correction. Helen expressed appreciation for the inclusion of Arbor Day in the report. Nathan discussed the tornado’s impact on tree canopy loss and suggested the report consider including an estimate of what the canopy coverage may have been without the tornado. Gulizar noted that, given the frequency of storms in the area, continued tree planting remains important.

Action Items: Ralph requested that the plan be overlaid on a map of Bentonville streets.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Spring Tree Giveaway After-Action Discussion

Shelli asked for any feedback from this past weekend’s giveaway. All 500 trees were given away.

Helen recommended adding signage near the trees so volunteers can easily identify the different tree species. Ralph recommended checking identification before drivers enter the parking lot so non-Bentonville residents can be redirected before entering the site. Tyler shared that he spoke

with Shane about offering a broader selection of trees at future giveaways. Overall, the committee was pleased with the tree selections. The Board recommended holding the giveaway at the same time of year, or slightly earlier, in future years. The Municipal Complex was identified as an ideal location for the giveaway. Nathan also recommended asking residents who receive a tree to share a photo afterward so the City can monitor how the trees are doing.

Landscape Awards

Submissions are now open for the 2026 Landscape Awards. Ralph asked whether there were any updates regarding native landscaping. Shelli shared that the new Development Code was recently approved by City Council. Jeannie suggested that residents with native landscaping consider posting signage to identify it as such.

Action Items: Baylea will start promotions on social media. Shelli will bring the draft native landscaping back to the committee.

5. Parks Updates

Tyler shared that Bentonville Parks and Recreation has completed its 2026 tree grant for the planting of 500 trees. He also noted that the department will soon begin the grant application process for an additional 500 trees in 2027.

6. Planning Updates

Shelli announced that the Bentonville Community Code was adopted Tuesday night at City Council. The Planning Department is moving to the Bentonville Municipal Complex at 3200 SW Municipal Drive.

OTHER BUSINESS

Helen reminded the Board that the Bentonville Garden Club's Arbor Day Celebration is Tuesday, April 28th at 10:00 am at the Bentonville Public Library.

ADJOURNMENT

Gulizar made a motion to adjourn, Nathan seconded. All in favor, motion passed 5-0.

MEMO

To: Tree and Landscape Advisory Board
From: Shelli Kerr, AICP, Comprehensive Planning Manager
On behalf of: Bentonville Public Works
TLAB Date: May 21, 2026
RE: Request for Funding to Replace Trees on 8th St.

Request. Public Works is requesting the use of Tree and Landscape Advisory Board funds in the amount of \$3,942 to replace 12 trees on 8th Street.

Background. Late last year after the city's 2026 Budget had been set and approved, Mayor Orman wanted to make a push to replace all of the dying and dead trees within the downtown in 2026 and Public Works was tasked with this project. This initial project later expanded to the city's ROW outside of the downtown. So far, Public Works has replaced approximately 60 trees using existing budget funds. However, those funds are running low and they need alternative funding sources to keep pace with the Mayor's directive for 2026.

Attached is a GIS map of the 8th Street tree replacement locations and a quote from Bogle Nursery with tax that will be \$3,942 for 12 replacement trees. This section of 8th Street is irrigated so trees will be properly watered during the summer months.

8th Street Right of Way Tree Replacement



ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BENTONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 76 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE TO ESTABLISH AN EXEMPTION FOR MANAGED NATIVE AND POLLINATOR LANDSCAPES; ESTABLISH A MANAGED NATIVE AND POLLINATOR LANDSCAPE REGISTRY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, manicured lawns result in high energy use, use of toxic chemicals for maintenance, contribute to air, noise and water pollution, and decrease bird and pollinator habitats.

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes residents' desire to use their property on residential parcels in an ecologically beneficial manner, including through the planting of vegetation in lawn areas, including native grasses and forbs, and other plants beneficial to pollinators, which may grow to a height of greater than the currently allowable eight (8) inches per Bentonville Municipal Code Sec. 76-302(d).

WHEREAS, City Council finds these types of plantings may preserve, restore, or maintain beneficial natural functions and may utilize environmentally sound practices while upholding aesthetic properties that benefit our neighborhoods and community.

WHEREAS, as guidance towards these functional and aesthetic goals, this change in lawn use must be planned, managed, and maintained in accordance with minimum standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BENTONVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That Bentonville Municipal Code, Chapter 76 Property Maintenance shall be and is hereby amended with *Attachment A: Managed Native and Pollinator Landscapes*, an electronic copy and paper copy of which is on file with the City Clerk and is hereby adopted by references as though it were copied herein fully.

Section 2: That the Planning Department establish and maintain a Managed Native and Pollinator Landscape Registry at no cost to its registrants. The department may establish rules regarding standards and processes associated with the establishment and maintenance of, and inclusion in, the registry.

Section 3- Severability Provision: If any part of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance shall continue in effect as if such invalid portion never existed; and

Section 4 - Repeal of Conflicting Provisions: All Ordinances, Resolutions, Orders of the City Council, or parts of the same, in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

PASSED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVED:

Stephanie Orman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Malorie Marrs, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT A
MANAGED NATIVE AND POLLINATOR LANDSCAPES

Sec. 76-202 General Definitions

Invasive Plant – A plant reproducing outside its native range and outside cultivation that disrupts naturally occurring native plant communities by altering structure, composition, natural processes, or habitat quality.

Managed native and pollinator landscapes – A planned, intentional, and maintained planting of native plants, or non-invasive plants of any origin, that is free from noxious weeds. This may include a variety of horticultural practices including but not limited to those called natural lawns, natural landscapes, native lawns, pollinator gardens, rain gardens, meadow vegetation, native prairie, prairie gardens, monarch waystations, native plantings, native gardens, and butterfly habitat.

Native plants – Plants recognized as native to Arkansas by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, including wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, vines, forbs, ferns, sedges, and rushes.

Non-invasive plants – Domesticated and non-native plants commonly used in horticulture that do not spread beyond intentionally planted beds; that do not establish in unmaintained areas.

Rain garden – A shallow, vegetated area designed to capture, absorb, and treat stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces.

Turf Grass – Continuous plant coverage consisting of a grass species intended to create a low-growing, homogeneous appearance that is mowed regularly to maintain an established height.

Sec. 76-302 Exterior Property Areas

(d) **Weeds.** All premises or lawns shall be maintained to prohibit the growth of weeds and grass in excess of 8". Noxious weeds shall be prohibited. ~~Exception. Weeds or grass in platted detention/retention ponds shall not exceed 10" in height.~~ Upon failure of the owner or agent having charge of a property to cut and destroy weeds after service of a notice of violation, they shall be subject to prosecution in accordance with Sec.76-109(c) Prosecution of violation and as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction. Upon failure to comply with the notice of violation, any duly authorized employee of the jurisdiction or contractor hired by the jurisdiction shall be authorized to enter upon the property in violation and cut and destroy the weeds growing thereon, and the costs of such removal shall be paid by the owner or agent responsible for the property. ~~Exception. This section shall not apply to areas zoned agricultural used for pastures and/or crop cultivation.~~

(1) Exceptions.

- a. Weeds or grass in platted detention/retention ponds shall not exceed 10" in height.
- b. This section shall not apply to areas zoned agricultural used for pastures and/or crop cultivation.

c. Managed native and pollinator landscapes that follow the requirements set forth in subsection (k).

(k) **Managed native and pollinator landscapes.** As an exception to section (d), an owner, authorized agent, or authorized occupant of any privately-owned lands or premises may, consistent with this subsection and all other applicable laws, statutes, rules, and ordinances, install and maintain a managed native and pollinator landscape as defined in Sec. 76.202, as long as the following requirements are met:

- (1) **Infringement.** For safety and accessibility purposes, the area of plant growth shall not extend into rights-of-way, sidewalks, neighboring properties, and the walkway to the front door of the structure. The area of plant growth also shall not extend into drainage utility easements unless approved as a rain garden by the Transportation Director.
- (2) **Visibility.** The area of plant growth shall not impede line of sight for safe vehicular travel, block view of traffic signs or traffic at intersections or driveways.
- (3) **Setbacks.** The area of plant growth shall be back from property lines and structures by at least five feet. The setback is not required where the defined landscape area abuts another similar private or public landscape area, a wetland, pond, lake or stream or if a fully opaque fence at least four feet in height is installed along the lot line adjoining the planned landscape area.
- (4) **Defined area.** The area of managed native and pollinator landscape must be clearly defined with edging, fencing, or two feet of mowed and maintained turf grass.
- (5) **Plant material.**
 - a. Plants within the managed native and pollinator landscape shall consist of native, pollinator vegetation.
 - b. No area of plant growth shall include noxious weeds or invasive plant species.
- (6) **Management.** Property owners are responsible for the care and management of the managed native and pollinator landscape, which includes removal or mowing of dead vegetation and regular weeding for removal of noxious and invasive plant materials.
- (7) **Registration.** To be eligible for this exception, the property must register with the Planning Department's Managed Native and Pollinator Landscape Registry.
- (8) **Sign.** In areas likely to be seen by the public, a sign must be posted on the property advising that a managed native and pollinator landscape is being established. The sign must be between 10 inches square and one foot square and no higher than 3 feet tall.
- (9) **Failure to comply.** If a property owner chooses to install a managed native and pollinator landscape and the city determines that the area fails to meet the requirements herein, the Director may remove the property from the Managed Native and Pollinator Landscape Registry, and the property shall no longer be exempt from Sec. (d).