



APAC Mission

To advise and make informed recommendations to the Arvada City Council on both future and immediate park related projects, land acquisition, modifications to recreational facilities, park and trail development and redevelopment, capital funding issues, and other related issues.

(From Rules and Procedures Rev. Dec 2016, B1)

Arvada Parks Advisory Committee (APAC) Meeting Agenda

Date: Aug 12, 2026 , 6:30 PM

Location: In-person Meeting (Anne Campbell Room; link to Google Meet on [Park Advisory Committee | Arvada, CO](#))

Minutes Recorder: Stephanie Redding

Membership Attendance:

Member	Term Exp	Present	Member	Term Exp	Present
Ryan Stevenson [Staff]	n/a	☒	Sarah Ruen	2027	☐
Hannah Szakal [Chair]	2027	☒	Greg Miller	2027	☒
Abigail Griffith [Vice-Chair]	2027	☒	David Maxwell	2028	☒
Stephanie Redding [Secretary]	2029	☒	Nancy Rogers	2028	☒
John Casillas	2029	☐	David Yonkie	2028	☒
Karen Gerbatsch	2028	☒			
Karen Miller	2029	☒			

Agenda Items

1.0 Call to Order (2 Min)

- 1.1 Called to order at 6:36 pm.
- 1.2 Note that due to technical difficulties there was no Zoom link.

2.0 Public Comment (3 Min each)

- 2.1 No comments.

3.0 Approval of July Minutes (3 Min) 202607- July APAC Meeting Minutes

- 3.1 Nancy Rogers motioned to approve. David Maxwell seconded.

4.0 Speaker - Ryan Stevenson (30 minutes)

- 4.1 *Ryan Stevenson, Director of VCN, Re-Introduction*
 - 4.1.1 *Who is Ryan Stevenson?*

- 4.1.1.1. Ryan Stevenson is originally from Detroit, with 33 years experience in local government throughout the country.
- 4.1.1.2. Ryan Stevenson was drawn to Arvada because of its established parks, trails, and open spaces that are highly valued by residents and the city's strong sense of community. VCN represents a "quality of life" department with a focus on addressing long-term strategies for water, aging infrastructure, sustainability, and changing recreation needs.
- 4.1.1.3. He is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional since 1995, with educational background in parks and recreation management, public administration, and urban forestry.
- 4.1.1.4. Ryan Stevenson views parks as critical civic infrastructure. People know their local parks well and care deeply about changes and conditions. His emphasis on stewardship.
- 4.1.2. *What is the VCN vision for APAC?*
 - 4.1.2.1. Ryan Stevenson emphasized balancing change and the need for parks to continue to serve residents.
 - 4.1.2.2. Water conservation is a major long-term focus, and in the future VCN will continue to consider how irrigation, wildfire management, turf conversion, protection of urban forest, etc. will affect park landscapes. This is a community conversation, of which APAC is a part.
 - 4.1.2.3. Aging infrastructure must be continually addressed - trails and facilities, athletic complexes, playgrounds, irrigation, etc.
 - 4.1.2.4. VCN capacity is foundational to park maintenance. For any new effort, VCN must consider if a project can be both built and sustained.
 - 4.1.2.5. Ryan Stevenson considers APAC's role important in representing community values and choices.
 - 4.1.2.5.1. APAC should function as a sounding board for in-development ideas.
 - 4.1.2.5.2. APAC also provides a community lens to understand what residents see and experience in the parks (for example through the 2026 park survey effort)
 - 4.1.2.5.3. APAC should also be a strategic advisory partner in thinking through challenges and tradeoffs facing the park system. Ryan Stevenson will be putting forth an effort to ensure these conversations continue upstream.
- 4.1.3. *How can APAC help support VCN in future policy changes?*
 - 4.1.3.1. VCN will aim to give APAC meaningful issues to work on, enough information to address, access to the individuals and technical staff who can provide information, answer questions, and note complexity.
 - 4.1.3.2. Ryan Stevenson doesn't expect complete agreement between VCN and APAC, but encourages open communication.
- 4.1.4. *How can APAC feedback help inform VCN operations?*
 - 4.1.4.1. Ryan Stevenson noted the importance of distinguishing between managing operations and informing operations. APAC's role is informing operations.
 - 4.1.4.1.1. For example, mowing frequency or crew schedules are outside of APAC's scope. Observations, communication from residents, missing communication, unintended consequences, successful implementation are great to share with VCN.
 - 4.1.4.2. The Master Plan process can help implement this relationship. Ryan Stevenson anticipates that this process will allow APAC to ask broader scale questions and consider a range of topics to be addressed by the Master Plan.
- 4.1.5. *What does APAC need from Ryan Stevenson and VCN staff to be successful?*
 - 4.1.5.1. Ryan Stevenson confirmed that he is now the conduit to city resources and staff.
 - 4.1.5.2. Stephanie Redding asked for Ryan Stevenson to confirm if APAC's 2026 goals are aligned with his expectations.
 - 4.1.5.3. Hannah Szakal asked for additional information on the topics that VCN would like APAC to support or provide input on.
 - 4.1.5.4. David Maxwell requested information on how APAC can support next steps on Gold Strike Park.

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- 4.1.5.5. Nancy Rogers requested clarification on how APAC addresses public comments.
 - 4.1.5.5.1. Abigail Griffith clarified that public comments provide an opportunity to understand community concerns, and APAC can decide which issues are important for APAC to address, if within scope. The public comments portion of the agenda also provides an opportunity for Ryan Stevenson to hear public concerns.
 - 4.1.5.5.2. Hannah Szakal noted that for example, the Best Practices Subcommittee added information on trail easements to master plan recommendations based on Lynn Clemen's public comments.
- 4.1.5.6.

5.0 2026 APAC Goals (5 minutes)

5.1 2026 APAC Goals - Established January 2026

- 5.1.1. *Conduct one year end review by EOY 2026 through City Council workshop or other means regarding APAC work during 2026.*
 - 5.1.1.1. The workshop with City Council will be scheduled for December, and will likely occur on a Tuesday. Ryan Stevenson will confirm the date and guidelines or rules of order for the workshop.
 - 5.1.1.2. Hannah Szakal recommends creating a subcommittee to develop content for the workshop for APAC review and confirmation in November. The subcommittee will consist of one representative from each subcommittee.
- 5.1.2. *Identify areas where APAC can collaborate on city projects through enhancing communication and understanding of city requests and objectives.*
 - 5.1.2.1. David Yonkie requested better communication from VCN regarding priorities and requests for feedback/input. One or two bullet points per meeting would be very helpful.
- 5.1.3. *Remain informed and advise on updates to the 2026 Arvada Parks, Trails, and Open Space and Lake Arbor master plans.*
 - 5.1.3.1. Ryan Stevenson clarified that consultant work has wrapped up on the Lake Arbor Master Plan, and VCN is determining anticipated costs and next steps. There will be a future touch point with APAC and a workshop with City Council.
 - 5.1.3.1.1. Ryan Stevenson will work with the Golf Subcommittee (lead: Sarah Ruen).
- 5.1.4. *APAC members, either on their own or in a group, visit 4 parks throughout the year to give feedback regarding the park during the regularly scheduled APAC meetings.*
 - 5.1.4.1. [APAC Park Site Visit App](#) and aggregated data:  Arvada Parks Audit Data
 - 5.1.4.2. The app was developed by the Volunteer Subcommittee, with the goal of providing standardized feedback on park condition, use, etc.
 - 5.1.4.3. The group noted a substantial jump in completion over the past month.
 - 5.1.4.4. David Yonkie recommended noting any requests for changes to the form, which can be made in January 2027.
 - 5.1.4.5. Goal for October meeting: 50% completion.
 - 5.1.4.6. Ryan Stevenson asked if there are dog waste stations at Marge Roberts Park. Nancy Rogers will check. The group noted that because of the plastic bag ban, there are frequently no bags available even where a waste station is provided.

6.0 Sub-Committee Updates (15 min)

6.1 Sub-Committee General Updates

- 6.1.1. Volunteer and Community Outreach Subcommittee (5 Min)
 - 6.1.1.1. Gold Strike Park Ground Blessing is scheduled for 10-11am, Thursday, Sept. 24
 - 6.1.1.2. Community Garden Open House, Sat, Aug. 15 11-2pm
 - 6.1.1.3. Arvada/Jeffco Trash Clean up and 9/11 remembrance, 8:30-12
 - 6.1.1.3.1. <https://offero.jeffco.us/ActivityRegistration/1f5fbd8c-4cc3-4d54-a5ca-b6724e0165a6>

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- 6.1.1.4. National Public Lands Day, Sat., Sept. 26 (same Jeffco web site)
 - 6.1.1.4.1. Majestic View Nature Center 9:30-11:30
 - 6.1.1.4.2. Trash, seeding, tree planting
 - 6.1.1.4.3. Then celebration at Bear Creek Lake Park with free food, music
- 6.1.1.5. Ralston House .5k, Sat., Sept 26
- 6.1.1.6. Arvada Farmers market, Sundays 9-1:30, Olde Town
- 6.1.1.7. APEX envision strategic plan
- 6.1.2. Best Practices Subcommittee (5 Min)
 - 6.1.2.1. Abigail Griffith attended the first Comprehensive Plan meeting (CAG) on July 23.
 - 6.1.2.1.1. This meeting was an introduction to the process and people.
 - 6.1.2.1.2. The meeting included an exercise about meaningful places within the City of Arvada. Abigail Griffith noted that many of these important places are parks and trails (Majestic View, Little Dry Creek Trail, Ralston Creek Trail, Long Lake Park).
 - 6.1.2.1.3. Comprehensive Plan Phase 1, including background and demographic information, was recently completed. The findings will be shared at an upcoming workshop meeting on August 25. The meeting is open to the public or can be viewed online.
 - 6.1.2.1.4. August 27 is the second CAG meeting.
 - 6.1.2.1.5. Phase 2 will focus on community and technical advisory input.
- 6.1.3. Golf Subcommittee (5 min)

Two City of Arvada golf course restaurant gems

Editorial by the Arvada Park Advisory Committee (APAC)

Have you ever driven past one of Arvada's golf courses and wondered what dining at the clubhouse might be like? The City of Arvada operates two outstanding golf course restaurants – often called the “19th hole” – that are true hidden gems: the Lake Arbor Bar and Grill and the West Woods Bar and Grill.

Both offer reasonably priced meals, generous portions, friendly service, and scenic views that can be enjoyed from either indoor or outdoor seating. Best of all, you do not need to be a golfer to enjoy the food and atmosphere.

Both restaurants are open to the public. The Lake Arbor Bar and Grill is located at 8600 Wadsworth Blvd., in the same building as the pro shop. Tucked behind Jimmy John's, it is not visible from Wadsworth, thus can be hard to find.

Since opening in 1974, the restaurant has become a popular gathering place for golfers and local community members. It serves breakfast and lunch daily, with dinner available Friday through Sunday. In addition to regular dining, the restaurant hosts special events, private parties, and community groups, including card and Mahjong players.

Manager Kelly Anderson works closely with Head Golf Professional Lee Kauffman to ensure excellent customer service and successful tournaments and events.

On the west side of Arvada, the West Woods Bar and Grill at 6655 Quaker St. offers spectacular views of both the golf course and the Front Range mountains. The spacious restaurant features indoor and outdoor seating, a renovated sports bar, and a private dining room with a fireplace.

The West Woods menu includes a variety of American and Mexican favorites. Breakfast is served weekends, while lunch and dinner are available Tuesday through Sunday (the restaurant is closed on Monday).

Restaurant managers Carlos Pinon and Ron Ward partner with Head Golf Professional Bobby Quarantino and Steve Lynes (manager of both Lake Arbor and West Woods golf courses) to coordinate tournaments, special events, and community gatherings. Whether you are looking for a casual meal, a scenic patio, or a place to gather with friends, these two City of Arvada restaurants are well worth discovering.



Members of the Arvada Park Advisory Committee enjoy breakfast at the Lake Arbor Bar and Grill.

Lake Arbor: [Lake Arbor Golf website](#) | 720-898-7352 • West Woods: [West Woods Golf website](#) | 720-898-7350

- 6.1.3.1.
- 6.1.3.2. The article highlighting the golf restaurants was published in the Arvada Report (see above). Thank you David Maxwell for spearheading the effort.

7.0 Upcoming Speakers Requests

- 7.1 September: request Native Area Maintenance Overview, for example Superintendent of Arvada Golf Course, or Manager of Parks Maintenance Division
 - 7.1.1. Hannah Szakal clarified that this does not need to be specific to golf.
- 7.2 Q4: Mayor Lauren Simpson or Other City Council Members, City Manager, Deputy City Manager
- 7.3 Early 2027: Brady Portfield-Finn
- 7.4 TBD: Colorado Parks & Wildlife/Animal Management

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8.0 Updates/Good of the Order (anything new from members) (5-10 min)

- 8.1 Abigail Griffith shared a public comment related to Tennyson Knolls Park.
 - 8.1.1. Karen DeAguiro, candidate for Adams County Commissioner, lives in the neighborhood adjacent to Tennyson Knolls. She expressed concern about park maintenance, particularly because Adams County provides funding to the City for maintenance.
 - 8.1.2. The park has had recent bluegrass conversion to native grass.
 - 8.1.3. Abigail Griffith and Stephanie Redding will visit the park and provide a professional opinion (as landscape architects) on condition.
- 8.2 Gold Strike Park proposals received.
- 8.3 Matt Young has resigned from APAC.

9.0 City Staff Updates (15 Min)

- 9.1 Water Management
 - 9.1.1. Parks have been asked to further reduce water usage, in addition to already conservative water management practices.
 - 9.1.2. Current water use is focused on athletic complexes.
 - 9.1.3. Westwoods Golf Course uses Tucker Lake, which is at a very low level. Ryan Stevenson noted the need to balance golf course investment and public perception of neighborhood park maintenance.
 - 9.1.4. Ditch owners and garden groups are also meeting to discuss ongoing water usage.
 - 9.1.5. There has been some loss of native plantings due to the drought.
- 9.2 Updates from City Council workshop on the Master Plan
 - 9.2.1. Ryan Stevenson and Darin DeLay invited Hannah Szakal to join the City Council workshop on August 11, 2026 and present recommendations from APAC for the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan update.
 - 9.2.2. Hannah Szakal noted that there were many comments and questions from Council.
 - 9.2.2.1. Nearly every City Council member wants to employ park rangers. Note that APAC met with a representative of Arvada Police to discuss this topic in November 2025, and PD did not identify a need for a park ranger. [= 202511 - November APAC Meeting Minutes](#)
 - 9.2.2.2. City Council requested an updated trail gap analysis that shows trail connectivity and park access throughout the City.
 - 9.2.2.3. City Council members requested a name change to West Lake Park. The nearby park is owned by an HOA and may be confusing.
 - 9.2.2.4. City Council identified potential alignment between APAC and CASAP through green infrastructure.
 - 9.2.2.5. City Council asked about maintenance of Metrodistrict Parks that will be acquired by Arvada within the next 5 years.
 - 9.2.2.6. City Council requested information on planned community engagement.
 - 9.2.3. Ryan Stevenson described next steps, which will include reviewing comments in order to update the scope.
 - 9.2.4. Mayor Lauren Simpson requested a tool to filter park amenities. This tool is available here: <https://www.arvadaco.gov/1039/Park-Inventory-and-Amenities>
- 9.3 West Arvada Dog Park Committee would like to meet with APAC regarding their proposed policies.

10.0 Adjournment (1 min)

- 10.1 Greg Casillas motioned to adjourn and David Maxwell seconded.

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