



TOWN COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA
May 12, 2025
4:00 PM

I. Study Session Items

1. Senior Center Update - Foerster/Soell - 30 minutes
2. Legislative Briefing with Lobbyist - Mutch/Hogan - 1 hour
3. Parks, Recreation & Open Space Update - Colton - 45 minutes
4. LDO Modernization Clean Up and Clarifications - Munekata/Nerger/Matthews - 45 minutes

II. Staff Updates

III. Town Council Updates/Items



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
FROM: Emily Hogan, Assistant Town Manager
DATE: May 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Legislative Briefing with Lobbyist

ISSUE:

Staff is presenting a legislative briefing for Council on the 2025 legislative session of the Colorado General Assembly.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The Town has established a framework for legislative advocacy and takes positions on major policy issues under consideration at the federal, state and local levels that may impact the Town and its residents and businesses. The Town supports legislation that is consistent and furthers advancement of the priorities and objectives found in the Strategic Plan. Conversely, the Town opposes legislation that inhibits achievements of the Strategic Plan and its objectives. These positions are captured in the Town's Legislative Policy Agenda, which is adopted annually.

Advocacy positions to be taken by the Town include:

- **Support** – The Town supports the proposed bill as written. The bill directly relates to Town priorities and/or is considered crucial to Town operations.
- **Oppose** – The Town opposes the proposed bill as written. The bill direct conflicts with Town priorities, forces an unfunded mandate on the Town, interferes with local control and/or conflicts with crucial Town operations.
- **Amend** – The Town deems the bill to directly relate to Town priorities or be considered crucial to Town operations. However, the Town would like to see the bill amended before taking a support or oppose position. The Town will take advocate to amend the bill prior to passage.
- **Monitor** – The Town deems the bill of interest but no position is to be taken at this time. Staff will track progress of the bill and report back to the Council. The Council may take a support or oppose position on the bill at a later time based on changes to the legislation.

- **None** – The Town does not take a position on the legislation. The Town may take a support or oppose position of the bill at a later time.

The Council serves as the Town's legislative review body and is apprised of bills throughout the session and receives regular updates from staff and the Town's lobbyist. The lobbyist (Mutch Government Relations) is contracted to provide legislative advocacy services to the Town. In addition to maintaining a daily presence at the State Capitol when in session, the lobbyist acts as a policy advisor, strategic consultant, coalition organizer and legislative advocate on behalf of the Town.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests a consensus of the Town Council to identify any bills to track or take a position on.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

Staff requests a consensus of the Town Council to identify any bills to track or take a position on.

ATTACHMENT:

1. 2025 Legislative Agenda 010325



2025 Legislative Policy Agenda

Introduction

The Town of Parker's 2025 Legislative Policy Agenda ("Agenda") establishes positions taken by the Town Council on major policy issues under consideration at the federal, state, and local levels that may impact the Town and its residents and businesses. The Agenda builds on the Town's existing values, priorities, and objectives identified in its Strategic Plan. With the Strategic Plan as its foundation, the Agenda is given the flexibility to represent the Town's interest in a wide range of policies, even if the policies in question are not explicitly addressed on the Agenda.

The Town's mission and vision are:

Mission

To enrich the lives of residents by providing exceptional services, engaging community resources and furthering an authentic hometown feel. We promote transparent governing, support sustainable development, and foster a strong, local economy.

Vision

Be the pre-eminent destination community of the Denver Metro area for innovative services with a hometown feel. We will be an area leader in economic and community development, and strive to be at the forefront for services, civic engagement, and quality of life.

The Town's Strategic Priorities are:



Support an active community

Parker will demonstrate our commitment to the health of our community, both indoors and out by providing access to outstanding parks, trails and recreation amenities and activities. We promote a healthy lifestyle and work to meet the needs of a diverse, multigenerational community.



Foster community creativity and engagement

Parker will stimulate community creativity and engagement through high quality cultural and educational programs and amenities. These will include community events, accessible cultural venues, state-of-the-art facilities and innovative lifelong learning opportunities, all of which are vital to a creative community.



Enhance economic vitality

Parker will be an area leader for economic growth by supporting the development of thriving businesses and industry. We will play a critical role in shaping quality of life through exceptional residential, commercial, and open space development; and creating a sense of place that attracts new employees, residents, and visitors to ensure fiscal stability for the community.



Provide a safe and healthy community

Parker will promote the wellbeing of our community by protecting our residents' welfare through prevention services and a safe transportation network. Parker fosters a feeling of personal safety and security through a visible, responsive public safety presence and a proactive focus on prevention, intervention and safety education.



Innovate with collaborative governance

Parker employs a high-quality dedicated workforce to support transparency, accountability, and fiscal sustainability by using innovative techniques to optimize performance. We engage in regional relationships, including our education, fire, water providers, and other governmental agencies and partnerships.



Develop a visionary community through balanced growth

Parker will demonstrate our commitment to balanced growth, well-planned development, and quality infrastructure using a visionary plan for a sustainable future. We support a healthy, future-focused community with exceptional services, while preserving our historical elements and hometown feel.

The Town of Parker supports legislation that is consistent and furthers advancement of the priorities and objectives found in its Strategic Plan. Conversely, the Town opposes legislation that inhibits achievement of the Strategic Plan and its objectives.

Limitations on legislative involvement

The Town will not take a position on every policy likely to impact the Town or its residents, businesses or other stakeholders in the community. The Town's legislative advocacy function has finite resources and focuses on areas with potential to have the greatest impact to the Town. The Town Council exercises discretion in determining when the Town takes a position on a policy.

Revisions to the Legislative Policy Agenda

The Town Council will review and update this Agenda each year as it deems appropriate. The Council may also choose to revise the Agenda outside of the regular update cycle in limited circumstances. Such circumstances may include a need to quickly respond to a particularly impactful policy or provide further direction to staff where the Agenda is not sufficiently specific on a topic.

The Council approves the Agenda each year via resolution.

Support of other organizations

The Town of Parker may from time-to-time partner with other municipalities or agencies on items of mutual interest. The Town may take a position on legislation to support its partners even if there is no direct impact to the Town itself.

Legislative review process

The Council serves as the Town's legislative review body. The Council is apprised of legislation throughout the session by staff and receives regular updates during Council meetings.

Individual advocacy and free speech

These procedures do not limit and are not intended to abridge the federal and state Constitutional rights of the Town Council and staff when they choose to express personal opinions on legislative matters. When expressing personal opinions, Council Members and staff are strongly encouraged to communicate that any personal opinions are not issued in an official capacity or on behalf of the Town of Parker or the Town Council. Individuals must refrain from the use of the Town's copyrighted logo or other branded materials.

While individual Council Members may advocate for or against legislation in their personal capacity, no Council Member may represent that they speak on behalf of the Town or Town Council when engaging in political advocacy unless the Town Council has taken a formal position for or against such legislation.

Advocacy for new legislation

Formal approval of the Town Council is required for the Town to propose new legislation. Neither the Mayor nor individual Council Members may propose legislation on behalf of the Town without the consent of the full Town Council.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Home rule authority and local control

Strategic Priority: All

- The Town supports local control and municipal government home rule authority.
- The Town supports collaboration with local municipalities as certain issues require statewide and multi-jurisdictional response, which are best addressed through early and meaningful engagement.
- The Town supports retention of authority for all municipalities to set local tax rates, expand municipal taxing authority and equitably share new state revenue with municipal governments.
- The Town opposes state legislation that creates unfunded mandates on local municipalities without state funding or other sources of revenue.
- The Town supports property tax policies that do not reduce local government revenue and allow municipalities the flexibility to retain excess revenue and modify debt service mill levies, among other tools.

Land use

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community; Enhance Economic Vitality; Promote a Safe and Healthy Community; Innovate with Collaborative Governance; Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports local control and determination of local land use issues.
- The Town supports municipal discretion concerning the imposition of development fees and requirements.
- The Town supports municipal discretion to adopt, update and enforce local building codes, including those that meet or exceed state standards.
- The Town opposes delegation of municipal land use authority to state agencies or preemption of municipal land use controls.
- The Town opposes mandatory approval of wireless telecommunications facilities permits within a 60-day period as this is a local land use issue and there are no known issues with municipalities delaying review of these applications.

Economic development

Strategic Priority: Enhance Economic Vitality; Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports the diversification and expansion of local economies, including support for existing businesses and the creation of new jobs.
- The Town supports regional economic development through partnerships and coordination with local, county, regional and statewide economic partners.
- The Town supports appropriate state tax policies and incentive programs that encourage business expansion, retention and attraction through job creation, investment in capital equipment and employer facility development.
- The Town supports workforce development, including higher education funding and vocational training.
- The Town opposes unreasonable restrictions on urban renewal authorities and downtown development authorities.
- The Town opposes limitations on municipalities' ability to utilize financing mechanisms such as tax increment financing (TIF).

Energy

Strategic Priority: Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports reasonable energy conservation efforts and appropriate legislation that accelerates the development of clean, economical energy resources.
- The Town opposes preemption of municipalities in setting and implementing long-term renewable energy goals.
- The Town opposes unfunded federal and state mandates on energy sources that would create unnecessary economic burden on municipalities, local businesses or residents or would reduce energy supply in a significant manner.

Environment, conservation and sustainability

Strategic Priority: Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports reasonable and practical application of air and water pollution control laws by federal and state agencies and encourages restraint in modifying legislation and regulations that have a fiscal impact on municipalities.
- The Town supports practices to assure public health, safety and environmental protection and the protection of domestic water sources.

- The Town supports statewide and regional cooperation in drought response planning including water storage, as well as increasing conservation efforts.
- The Town opposes state preemption of local government authority to adopt environmental ordinances.

Housing

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community

- The Town opposes mandated affordable housing requirements that infringe upon local home rule authority or pose a safety issue.
- The Town opposes state preemption of local authority to adopt and enforce ordinances that regulate use of public spaces and rights-of-way.
- The Town supports increasing local governments' ability to regulate, manage or generate alternative sources of funding for affordable housing, including public-private partnerships.
- The Town supports an adequate supply of diverse housing options and continued public and private sector support for such an effort.
- The Town supports solutions at the state level to limit litigation on construction defects to encourage a variety of housing types, particularly for-sale multifamily housing.
- The Town supports the creation of an adequately financed statewide housing trust fund.

Public health

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community; Promote a Safe and Healthy Community

- The Town supports the greatest amount of local control possible for the regulation and ability to restrict sales of marijuana, kratom, and products with hallucinogenic properties.
- The Town supports legislation that expands support for those with mental health needs.
- The Town supports legislation that provides state resources for mental health initiatives.
- The Town supports the greatest amount of local control possible for regulating nutraceutical supplements.

Public safety

Strategic Priority: Promote a Safe and Healthy Community

- The Town opposes initiatives that have the potential to compromise officer safety.
- The Town opposes efforts to undermine local control or enforcement of activities on public property.

- The Town opposes the reduction and loss of qualified immunity for government officials.
- The Town supports local control of local emergency services, operations, and involvement of the state as a resource to local government in the areas of information, coordination and training.
- The Town supports federal, state and county funds for those agencies that serve as a resource to municipal emergency services.
- The Town supports state and community-based intervention, prevention and rehabilitation programs and state initiatives that respect the key role of communities and local government officials.
- The Town supports ensuring that municipal governments retain flexibility in implementing federal and state criminal justice programs.
- The Town opposes efforts to undermine local control and create mandates for local governments related to personnel policies and benefits structures.
- The Town supports limitations on the liability of municipalities and their officers and employees.
- The Town opposes state preemption of municipal authority to regulate firearms within municipalities.

Transportation

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community; Enhance Economic Vitality; Promote a Safe and Healthy Community

- The Town opposes state transit planning that results in mandates for local governments and infringes upon local home rule authority.
- The Town supports better geographic distribution in programming provided to communities by RTD to ensure the Parker area has equitable access to multi-modal transit options that meet the needs of its residents.
- The Town supports greater flexibility and increased funding for multi-modal transportation systems. The Town supports cooperation among Colorado Department of Transportation, counties, municipalities and interested stakeholders in improving Colorado's transportation system.
- The Town supports legislation and regulatory action that maintains or increases the level of funding provided by the state or passed through the state by the federal government to transportation activities at the local level.

- The Town opposes legislation to transfer maintenance responsibility of state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate short and long-term funding to meet these additional responsibilities.
- The Town supports legislation that would allow local governments to impose an additional local motor vehicle registration fee to fund safety improvements for vulnerable road users (i.e. pedestrians, cyclists, etc.) in a local government's jurisdiction.
- The Town opposes legislation that would require local governments with a population of 25,000 or more to prepare a transportation mode choice implementation plan every 5 years to meet mode choice targets and provide different means of travel to reduce emissions.

Water and wastewater

Strategic Priority: Innovate with Collaborative Governance

- The Town supports water policies that protect Colorado's water resources.
- The Town supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resources management practices by all users.
- The Town supports participation in statewide discussions of water use and distribution.
- The Town supports stakeholder input and involvement in developing laws and regulations related to water and wastewater issues.

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS

Town of Parker (all Council Members serve at-large)

Council Member	Email	Phone
Mayor Joshua Rivero	jrivero@parkerco.gov	(303) 841-0353
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John Diak	jdiak@parkerco.gov	(303) 841-0353
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Laura Hefta	lhefta@parkerco.gov	(303) 841-0353
Brandi Wilks	bwilks@parkerco.gov	(303) 841-0353
Vacant	TBD	TBD
Michelle Kivela, Town Manager	mkivela@parkerco.gov	(303) 841-0353
Emily Hogan, Asst. Town Manager	ehogan@parkerco.gov	(303) 841-0353
Michael Lawson, Asst. Town Manager	mlawson@parkerco.gov	(303) 841-0353

US Congress

Council Member	Email	Phone
Sen. Michael Bennet	scheduler@bennet.senate.gov	(202) 224-5852
Sen. John Hickenlooper	andres.carrera@hickenlooper.senate.gov	(202) 224-5941
Rep. Lauren Boebert (CO-4)	boebert.scheduling@mail.house.gov	(202) 225-4761

State General Assembly

Council Member	District	Email	Phone
Senator Lisa Frizell	SD 2	lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov	(303) 866-2948
Representative Anthony Hartsook	HD 44	anthony.hartsook.house@coleg.gov	(303) 866-4869

Douglas County Commissioners

Council Member	District	Email	Phone
Abe Laydon	1	bocc@douglas.co.us	(303) 660-7400
George Teal	2	bocc@douglas.co.us	(303) 660-7400
Kevin Van Winkle	3	bocc@douglas.co.us	(303) 660-7400



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
FROM: Mary Colton, Parks and Recreation Director
DATE: May 12, 2025
SUBJECT: Parks, Recreation & Open Space Update

ISSUE:

Parks and Recreation Department update to include projects and highlights.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

There is no budget impact associated with this meeting.

BACKGROUND:

Parks and Recreation Department staff will provide an update on relevant topics for the Mayor and Town Council to include parks projects, capital projects and recreation highlights.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation for information only.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

For information only

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council

FROM: Mary Munekata, Senior Planner
Stacey Nerger, Senior Planner
Bryce Matthews, Assistant Director - Planning

DATE: May 12, 2025

SUBJECT: LDO Modernization Clean Up and Clarifications

ISSUE:

The Town has completed a comprehensive modernization of the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) that consists of two (2) major elements. The first element was a comprehensive update to the LDO text including administrative provisions, bulk/use requirements, development standards and zoning districts that the Town Council adopted in May, 2024. The second element was the preparation of a replacement zoning map that the Town Council adopted in January, 2025. With complex projects such as the LDO Modernization, it is typical that there will be a need for minor amendments, refinements and updates after adoption and a 6 to 12 month period of working with the new code. It has been one (1) year since the Town Council adopted the new LDO text, so staff have identified minor amendments that are necessary to improve clarity, ease of use and respond to input from applicants as well as the development community.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The LDO, Title 13 of the Municipal Code, consists of regulations and standards that govern land use, development and related process(es) within the Town. The LDO is an important tool used to implement the Parker 2035 Master Plan community vision, goals and policies related to growth and development. The LDO Modernization was crucial for aligning development regulations with the Master Plan to ensure that development is well-planned, supported by infrastructure and helps the community realize its vision for the future. The updated LDO also supports beneficial, practical outcomes such as greater clarity, more public transparency, streamlined process(es), improved efficiency, responsiveness to emerging issues and changing conditions and the use of best practices in development review.

To ensure the new LDO is working as intended, Community Development staff has monitored the process for development review, site inspections and project construction to evaluate the effectiveness of the code. The good news is that the new LDO is meeting expectations and performing better than the prior code. However, it is our experience that complex projects such as the LDO Modernization need refinements after adoption and an appropriate transition period to determine how well they operate. As a part of staff's review and analysis of the updated LDO, staff has:

- Emailed the development community for input in February 2024 seeking input and inviting interested parties to a virtual meeting;
- Held a virtual meeting with interested members of the development community on February 20, 2024 to discuss how the updated LDO is working
- Spoken individually with applicants regarding the updated LDO
- Held multiple internal staff meetings to discuss and track code performance and required changes.

This engagement and analysis has been helpful in identifying potential code amendments and updates to ensure the updated LDO continues to meet expectations for clarity, ease of use, predictability, quality development and successful outcomes that align with the Parker 2035 Master Plan.

Staff will provide a high-level summary of the proposed LDO amendments and updates including:

1. **Clarity and Cleanup of Language:** Provide additional clarity of definitions, language clean-up of references, and update language to simplify and provide clarification where needed.
2. **Framework Plan Subdivision:** This process replaced the Sketch Plan process and was originally planned to be optional. Framework Plans/Sketch Plans are typically processed concurrently with Preliminary Plans, having two applications to serve on purpose is not necessary.
3. **Accessory Uses:** Proposing moving a few standards from Use Specific Standards to Accessory Uses section of the LDO for clarification and alignment with policies.
4. **Accessory Use Standards that Apply in All Zones except PD's:** Not all accessory use standards apply in Planned Developments (PD's), the proposed amendments will provide clarity as to which accessory uses apply townwide and which only apply in straight zone districts.
5. **Use Specific Standards Applicable Town-wide Including PD's** - Not all Use Specific Standards apply to PD's. The proposed amendments will provide clarity as to which Use Specific Standards should be applicable Town-wide including in PD's such as group homes; school standards; microbrewery; distillery/winery requirements regarding storage of raw and spent materials; and bed and breakfasts. Most use specific standards will not apply to PD zone districts.
6. **Uses not Permitted in PD's:** Provide clarity regarding those uses that are limited to certain zone districts and are not permitted in a PD such as natural medicine facilities, sexually oriented businesses, check cashing facilities and pawnbrokers.
7. **Assembly Uses:** Assembly uses generally include religious facilities, schools, theaters, recreation facilities, community facilities and other similar uses. Proposed amendments will update uses in the LI-Light Industrial zone to ensure that assembly uses are treated the same. In addition, the proposed amendments will clarify that assembly uses in PD's must comply with requirements of the Light Industrial Conservation Overlay and the Title 32 Metropolitan District.
8. **Landscaping:** Proposed amendments will remove allowances for sod in the ROW, in residential buffers and in non-residential site plans except for 'active sod areas'.
9. **Sign Code:** Proposed amendments will clarify language in sign code and minor changes

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Town Council provide input and direction to proceed with the proposed LDO amendments.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

Staff requests Town Council input and direction to proceed with the identified LDO amendments.

ATTACHMENT:

None