



TOWN COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA
September 14, 2026
5:00 PM

I. Study Session Items

1. Honoring Parker's Tribal History Discussion - Steve LaPointe/Glassburn - 1 hour
2. Community Partner-Parker History - Jan Truskolaski - 30 minutes
3. Heritage Center Update - Todd McMahon/Glassburn - 45 minutes
4. Landscape Code Update - Matthews/Bennett/Munekata - 45 minutes

II. Staff Updates

III. Town Council Updates/Items



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
FROM: Carrie Glassburn, Cultural Director
DATE: September 14, 2026
SUBJECT: Honoring Parker's Tribal History Discussion

ITEM OVERVIEW:

With consensus from Town Council, the Cultural Department was asked to invite an expert to provide an overview of the Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations with historical and ongoing connections to the land that is now Parker and to share ideas for how the Town can appropriately recognize and honor their history, cultures and contributions.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

While many are familiar with the Arapaho, Cheyenne and Ute connections to this area, more than twenty Tribal Nations have historical ties to the land that is now Parker.

Steven LaPointe, a member of the Sicangu Lakota Nation and co-founder of 1st Tribal Consulting, will provide a brief overview of the Indigenous history of the area and discuss ways other communities have worked to educate residents about this important and often overlooked part of their history. He will also share examples and ideas for ways Parker could recognize and properly share Indigenous history, cultures and perspectives within our community.

1st Tribal Consulting is a Native American-owned and operated community consulting firm based in Denver. Its co-founders, Steven LaPointe and Erlidawn Roy work to increase the representation and visibility of Native American and Indigenous communities within businesses, nonprofit organizations, local government agencies, and other institutions. Their work helps organizations foster greater cultural awareness through education, traditional teachings and community development strategies.

FINANCIAL AND POLICY IMPACTS:

None at this time. Any future projects or initiatives Council chooses to pursue would need to be evaluated and included in the appropriate department's budget.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Following the presentation, Council may discuss potential opportunities for the Town to recognize and honor the Indigenous peoples and Tribal Nations with historical and ongoing connections to this area, and provide direction regarding any next steps.

STRATEGIC GOALS:



FOSTER COMMUNITY
CREATIVITY AND
ENGAGEMENT

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
FROM: Carrie Glassburn, Cultural Director
DATE: September 14, 2026
SUBJECT: Heritage Center Update

ITEM OVERVIEW:

At the direction of Town Council, the Cultural Department has been working with Douglas County and Parker History to develop a plan to reimagine the Parker Heritage Center, the Town's history museum located in the Schoolhouse.

Phase I of the project incorporated professional museum planning and interpretive standards, along with extensive community engagement, resulting in an Interpretive Plan that will be presented to Council.

Phase II will bring the plan to life through exhibit design, fabrication and installation. The renovated Heritage Center is anticipated to reopen in fall 2027.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

At the February 28, 2025 Town Council Retreat, Council directed Cultural staff to explore opportunities to preserve and enhance the Parker Heritage Center and expand programming related to Parker's history.

In July 2025, Council provided additional direction regarding the project budget. Cultural staff subsequently began working with Todd McMahon, a Certified Interpretive Planner, contracted through Douglas County Historic Preservation.

In April 2026, the Town, Douglas County and the Parker Area Historical Society, now operating as Parker History, formalized their partnership through an Intergovernmental Agreement adopted by Resolution No. 26-030 to develop a plan to reimagine the Heritage Center.

Today's presentation will provide an overview of the resulting Interpretive Plan, including project goals and objectives, target audiences, community input, overarching interpretive themes, and proposed floor plans for the renovated space.

FINANCIAL AND POLICY IMPACTS:

The 2026 budget includes \$100,000 for the Heritage Center project. An additional \$7,500 was secured through a Colorado 150/America 250 grant.

Final costs will depend on exhibit design, fabrication and the level of technology the Town decides to incorporate into the space, particularly the treatment of the existing diorama. Following Council direction on the Interpretive Plan, staff will develop more detailed cost

estimates for Phase II. If additional funding is necessary, staff will return to Council with options and any associated supplemental budget requests.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Staff is seeking Council feedback on the proposed Interpretive Plan and consensus to proceed with Phase II of the Heritage Center project. Based on Council's direction, staff and project partners will proceed with exhibit design and develop more detailed cost estimates for fabrication and installation. Any additional funding needs will be brought back to Council for consideration.

STRATEGIC GOALS:



INNOVATE WITH
COLLABORATIVE
GOVERNANCE



SUPPORT AN
ACTIVE COMMUNITY



FOSTER COMMUNITY
CREATIVITY AND
ENGAGEMENT

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council

FROM: Bryce Matthews, Assistant Director - Planning
Mary Munekata, Senior Planner
Heather Bennett, Associate Planner

DATE: September 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Landscape Code Update

ITEM OVERVIEW:

Staff and project consultant HCM are updating Section 13.08.090 of the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) to modernize the Town's landscaping standards and promote high-quality, resilient and water-wise landscapes in commercial, industrial and multifamily development.

The update seeks to:

- Incorporate ColoradoScape and arid-region best practices;
- Improve the usability, predictability and enforceability of the regulations;
- Align the LDO with the *Parker 2050 Comprehensive Plan*; and
- Address recent state legislation

This study session provides an opportunity for Council to review the project's initial findings and provide direction on key policy considerations before preparing the draft LDO amendments.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

Background

The Town's existing landscaping regulations establish requirements for landscaping, buffering and screening across commercial, industrial and multifamily development. The current update is intended to modernize certain standards, focusing on several objectives:

- Reduce long-term landscape water consumption;
- Maintain quality landscape aesthetic;
- Support healthy and resilient plant materials and;
- Create standards that are practical for applicants and Town staff to administer

Recent state requirements are an important driver of the update, including Senate Bill 24-005, which prohibits the installation of nonfunctional turf in new nonresidential development and public rights-of-way. Other requirements and emerging standards related to residential turf limitations and wildfire-resilient landscaping will also need to be considered as the Town updates its regulations.

Analysis/Discussion

Initial technical analysis has identified several areas for potential code revisions, including:

- **Hydrozones:** Establishing a framework that groups plants with similar water needs and supports coordination with water district requirements.
- **Plant materials:** Updating the Town's approved plant list and evaluating expanded use of native, warm-season and climate-adapted grasses.
- **Landscape design:** Revisiting planting minimums, soil health and plant-establishment requirements to support diverse, healthy landscapes with lower long-term water demand.
- **Resiliency:** Evaluating tree canopy and shade requirements, wildfire-resilient landscaping and artificial turf provisions.

Council's feedback, along with input provided at the September 24 Planning Commission study session, will inform preparation of the discussion draft. Public review of the draft LDO is anticipated in winter 2026–2027, followed by additional Planning Commission and Town Council review prior to adoption hearings in spring 2027.

FINANCIAL AND POLICY IMPACTS:

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Staff is seeking feedback from Council on the following policy considerations that will help establish direction of the draft regulations:

1. **Reduced Water Usage:** Does Council support revising landscaping requirements to reduce water usage over the long-term while balancing state water-conservation requirements, water-district coordination, ease of use for the development community, with efficient development review and the Town's expectations for attractive, quality landscapes?
2. **Adapted Turf Grasses:** Does Council support allowing native, warm-season and climate-adapted grasses in appropriate applications, recognizing that their seasonal appearance may differ from traditional cool-season turf?
3. **Is there anything else important to the Council?** Does Council support the overall direction of the proposed landscape code update, including the emphasis on water conservation, resilient landscapes and maintaining Parker's quality landscape aesthetic?

STRATEGIC GOALS:



ATTACHMENT:

None