

City of Plainwell

Matthew Bradley, Chair
Bunny LaDuke, Commissioner
Corey Redder, Commissioner
Vacant, Commissioner
Vacant, Commissioner
Bob Nieuwenhuis, DPW Representative
Lori Steele, Council Representative



“The Island City”

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AGENDA

Parks & Trees Commission Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 4:00pm City Hall Conference Room

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes – 11/11/2025**
4. **Public Comments**
5. **Chairman’s Report**
6. **Park Reports:**
 - General Update – Bob Nieuwenhuis
 - Sherwood Park –
 - Pell Park –
 - Hicks Park – Matthew Bradley
 - Cook Park – Cory Redder
 - Kenyon Park – Bob Nieuwenhuis/Lori Steele
 - Darrow Park – Bunny LaDuke
 - River Walk, Band Shell and Central Business District – Cory Redder
7. **Recommendations and Reports:**
 - A. **Arbor Day Event at Ransom Public Library**

Commission will discuss plans for the Arbor Day Event held in conjunction with Ransom Library in April.
8. **Staff Comments**
9. **Commissioner Comments**
10. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 4pm

Agenda Subject to Change

Note: All public comment limited to two minutes, when recognized please rise and give your name and address.
Plainwell is an equal opportunity provider and employer

MINUTES
PARKS & TREE COMMISSION
November 11, 2025

1. Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 4:01pm in the City Hall Conference Room.
2. Roll Call:
Present: Chair Matthew Bradley, Vicechair Bunny LaDuke, Commissioners Marsha Keeler, Corey Redder and Shirley DeYoung, Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis, and City Manager Justin Lakamper
Excused: Councilmember Lori Steele.
3. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by DeYoung, seconded by Keeler, to accept and place on file the Parks & Trees Meeting Minutes of the 09/09/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment: Sherwood Park looked good for Veteran’s Day, and the memorial service went well.
5. Chairman’s Report: None.
6. Park Reports:
Bob stated that the public restrooms at Pell Park and Sherwood Park remain open, and the others are closed for winter. Pell Park is getting a new picnic table. In Upper Thurl Cook Park, trees have been removed, and new playground equipment will be going in. The reimbursement from Chula Vista for the pollinator garden in front of the DPW and WR buildings came through.
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Shirley DeYoung
Shirley reported the park was empty, but looked good.
Pell Park Maintenance Report – Marsha Keeler
Marsha reported the park is okay.
Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley
Matthew reported the park looked good, and the boardwalk railings between Hicks and Pell are still sturdy.
Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Cory reported the upper park trees were removed, and the park was quiet. He noted some ‘donut’ tracks in the parking lot.
Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis and Lori Steele
Bob stated he hadn’t been out to the park recently.
Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke
Bunny had nothing to report.
Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Cory reported that the trestle railing had been reinforced and seems better.
7. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Vicechair LaDuke discussed the pollinator garden, sharing a handout with the Commission breaking down how the grant funds were dispersed.
8. Staff Comments: Justin provided an update on the Mill property development, sharing site and design plans for the Plainwell Auto building, potential placement of parking lots, and how this all ties in with the Masterplan as it pertains to commercial use of the property. He discussed Classic Auto Factory and their intent to lease and renovate the remaining Mill Buildings. He provided an update on the party interested in purchasing Building 17 & 18 for use as a wedding venue, and shared their concepts for the space and grounds.
9. Commissioners’ Comments: None
10. Adjournment:
A motion by Redder, seconded by Keeler, to adjourn the meeting at 5:26pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by JoAnn Leonard