

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, April 14, 2026 at 4:00pm

City Hall Conference Room

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes – 3/10/2026**
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 being held in conjunction with Ransom Library on Friday, April 24th at 2pm.
8. **Staff Comments**
9. **Commissioner Comments**
10. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 12, 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
March 10, 2026

1. Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 4:10pm in the City Hall Conference Room.
2. Roll Call:
Present: Chair Matthew Bradley, Vicechair Bunny LaDuke, Commissioner Corey Redder and Councilmember Lori Steele.
Excused: Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis
3. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by LaDuke, seconded by Bradley, to accept and place on file the Parks & Trees Meeting Minutes of the 11/11/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. Chairman's Report: None.
6. Park Reports:
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report –
Cory reported the park was muddy and damp.
Pell Park Maintenance Report –
Matthew reported the park is in good shape, and being used regularly.
Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley
Matthew reported the park looked good, but there are some warped boards.
Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Cory reported the park is a muddy mess, but the dog park has seen increased use.
Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis and Lori Steele
Lori stated the park looks good overall.
Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke
Bunny shared that the dock is still out for the winter season.
Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Cory reported that the trestle bridge will see more traffic now that Dean's Ice Cream is open for the season.
7. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Vicechair LaDuke discussed the upcoming Arbor Day event, and shared a tentative Agenda planned for the Day. LaDuke shared that this year, Mary File will be honored, along with her family. She reported that Cheryl is running an ad in the paper about the event, is taking care of ordering the name plate for the plaque, and has ordered American Red Bud seedlings to hand out. Joe at the library offered to provide light refreshments again this year.
A motion by Redder, seconded by LaDuke, to approve the Arbor Day Agenda as presented. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
8. Staff Comments: None.
9. Commissioners' Comments: Steele discussed the dam conversion project, sharing that there will be a presentation by EGLE, NOAA and the DNR at the next Council meeting on March 23, 2026. She encouraged everyone to attend. The City hasn't been able to get permission to access the land from the owners, and without that, the project is at a stand still.
10. Adjournment:
A motion by Redder, seconded by Bradley, to adjourn the meeting at 4:38pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by JoAnn Leonard

City of Plainwell Arbor Day Celebration

At Ransom District Library

Friday, April 24, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

Supported by:

**City of Plainwell Parks & Trees Commission
City of Plainwell Department of Public Work
Ransom District Library
Chula Vista Garden Club**

Tentative Agenda:

Welcome

**PowerPoint Presentation on the Value of Trees &
the Eastern Redbud Tree**

In Memory of Mary File

Speakers

Mayor Keeler – Proclamation

Presentation of Plaque

Family

Pass out Eastern Redbud tree seedlings