



GREELEY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 2024 -- 7:00am

Location: Greeley Recreation Center Room 101C

For Virtual Attendance: Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

Meeting ID: 218 374 210 119

Passcode: gqUeq

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[+1 347-966-8471, 340108257#](#) United States, New York City

Phone Conference ID: 340 108 257#

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Food Tax Ballot Initiative Presentation by Nelvis Alvarez of Public Engagement
5. Public Input
6. Board Member Committee Reports: Art Commission
7. Staff Reports
8. Old Business
 - A. Meeting schedule & calendar discussion
9. New Business
 - A.
10. Upcoming Agendas
11. Next Meeting Set – Tentatively Friday, September 6, 2024
12. Adjournment

Board members unable to join this meeting, please notify
Greta Steinmetz at: greta.steinmetz@greeleygov.com.

GREELEY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – June 7, 2024

1. ROLL CALL

The Greeley Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met Friday, June 6, 2024, at 7:05am at the Greeley Recreation Center. Board members joining: Monica Ramirez, Adam Michaels, Sharon Wright, Greg McIntosh, Michael Harens, Shane Kigin, Rand Morgan, and Councilmember DeBoutez. Staff joining: Benjamin Alexander (Business Manager), Eric Bloomer (Parks Division Manager), Justin Scharton (Natural Areas & Trails Division Manager), Daniel Lawrence (Recreation Division Manager), Leslie Evans (Administrative Assistant II), and Greta Steinmetz (Office Manager).

- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Rand Morgan made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Monica Ramirez and passed unanimously.

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Rand Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, which was seconded by Monica Ramirez and passed unanimously.

- 4. FOOD TAX BALLOT INITIATIVE** – This item was postponed until the July meeting.

- 5. PUBLIC INPUT** - None

- 6. BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Art Commission – Sharon Wright: The Art Commission did not meet, so there is no report.

7. STAFF REPORTS

Benjamin Alexander

- The Speak Up Greeley page is live. We are already receiving data to use in the Comprehensive Plan.
- The Culture Park and Rec survey will be mailed out after the Community Survey is completed. There are yard signs with QR to take the survey.
- Board member packets are being put together, including contact information and maps, and lists of parks and recreation facilities, among other data.
- Due to the holiday, the next meeting will be held August 2, 2024.

Eric Bloomer

- Thank you to all that attended the 150th Anniversary of Lynn Grove Cemetery.
- Working on the irrigation system in at the Cemetery.
- Will send out a list of parks to the board members.
- The Hope Springs subdivision park will be given to Parks in August.

Daniel Lawrence

- There are 140 participants at Rodarte and 50 at Anna Gimmestad for the Fun In The Sun program.

- The Recreation Center locker rooms are on target for being completed on time.
- Ice Haus lobby food and beverage expansion.
- Grit is averaging 500-700 people per game. The businesses are seeing an uptick in business when the game is good.
- FunPlex Fieldhouse track is being replaced.
- Due to the storm on Tuesday night, the FunPlex was opened as a Red Cross shelter starting at 12:45 am. The Red Cross came in around 3:30 am. The night manager at Kingsoopers opened the store so supplies could be purchased.
- Building damage from the storm was discussed for all the buildings; all have been placed in the Federal system for assistance.
- The Pucks and Pints tournament is scheduled. Play hockey and have a beer afterward at a downtown location.
- The Mayor will read a proclamation at the June 18th Council Meeting declaring July as National Parks and Recreation month.

Justin Scharton

- Run-off has begun. Please be careful of flooding streams.
- Updates on the Duran and Signature Bluffs projects were shared. There will be some trail closures during this time. Also, there are road closures around the Poudre Learning Center for installing a sewer line.
- There is spraying and maintenance in the Natural Areas.
- There is no public access at some regions of the Missel Site due to needing to clean up the debris from the dumping site. Looking at the Environmental Protection Agency grants to help pay for the work.

8. OLD BUSINESS

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

None

10. UPCOMING AGENDAS – Food Tax Ballot Initiative, Barry Dunn Update

11. NEXT MEETING – The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2024.

12. ADJOURNMENT – Rand Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting 8:13 am, which was seconded by Monica Ramirez, and carried unanimously.

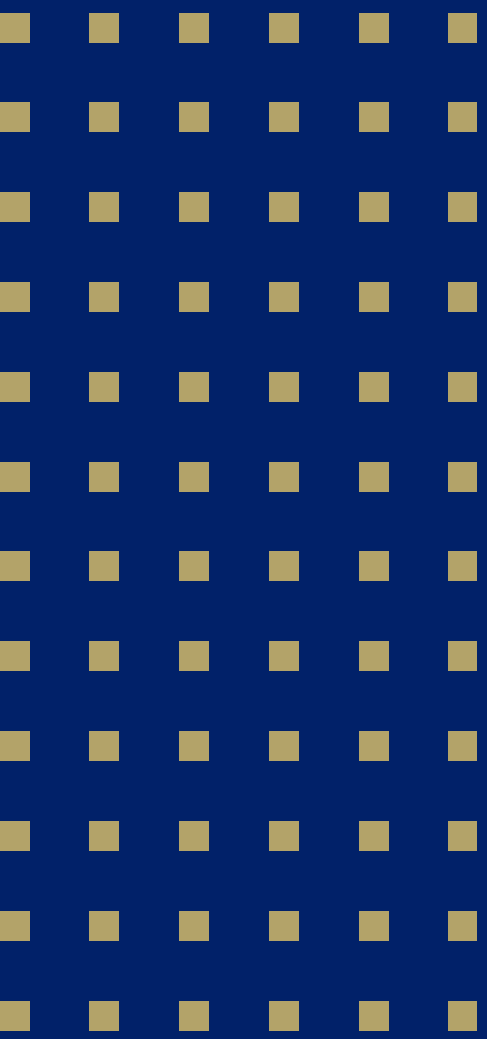
Respectfully submitted:

Greg McIntosh, Chair

Greta Steinmetz, Office Manager



Funding Greeley's Future



Funding Greeley's Future

2024 Potential Ballot Measures

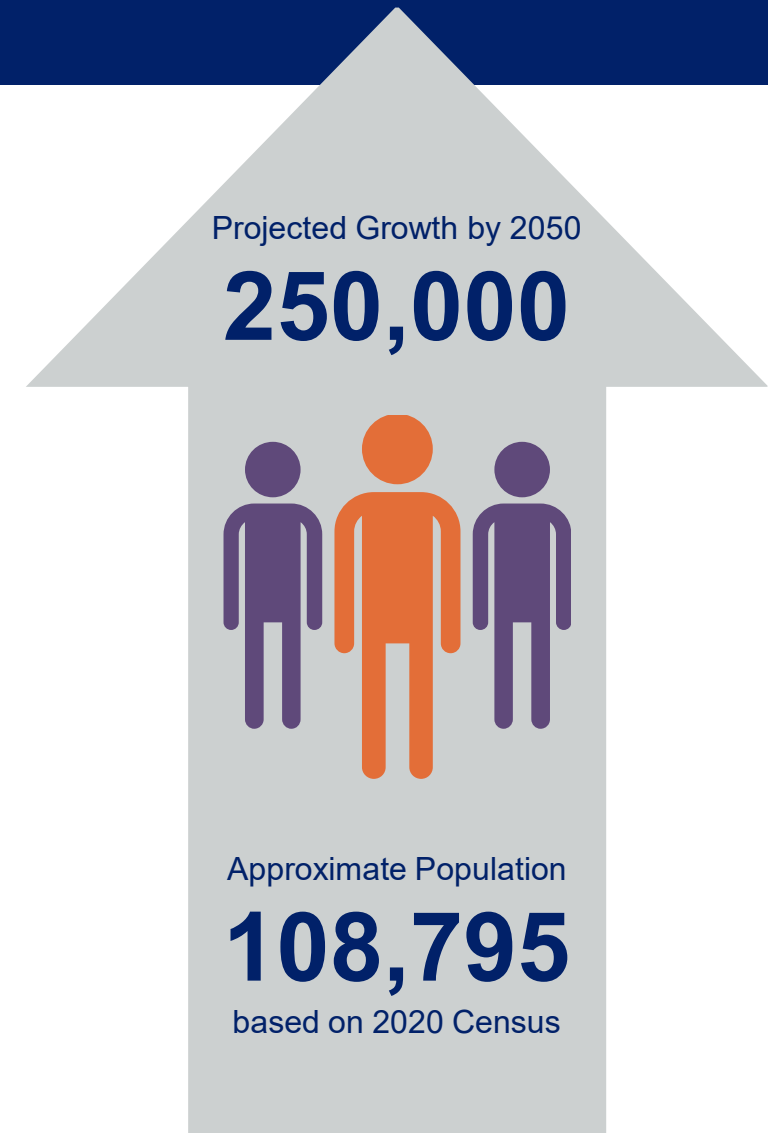
Agenda



- Overview of Potential 2024 Ballot Measures
- **Driving Greeley:** Food Tax and Debt Issuance
- **Protecting Greeley:** Public Safety
- What's At Stake
- Q&A

Greeley's Growth

- Greeley is the fourth fastest-growing metro area in the country and among the top 10 largest cities in Colorado.
- By 2050 Greeley is expected to have a population of approx. 250,000 residents.



Overview of Potential 2024 Ballot Measures



The City is considering three potential ballot measures this November:

- **Driving Greeley**
 1. Food Tax Renewal
 2. Debt Issuance
- **Protecting Greeley**
 3. Public Safety Tax Increase

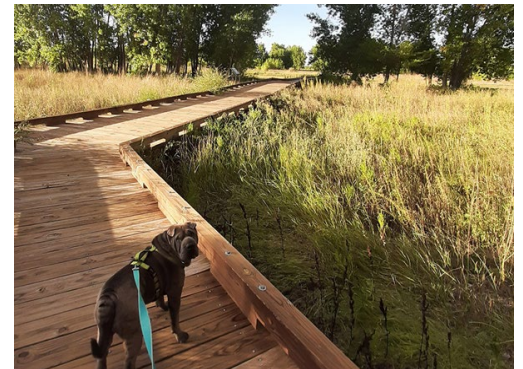
Driving Greeley: Food Tax and Debt Issuance

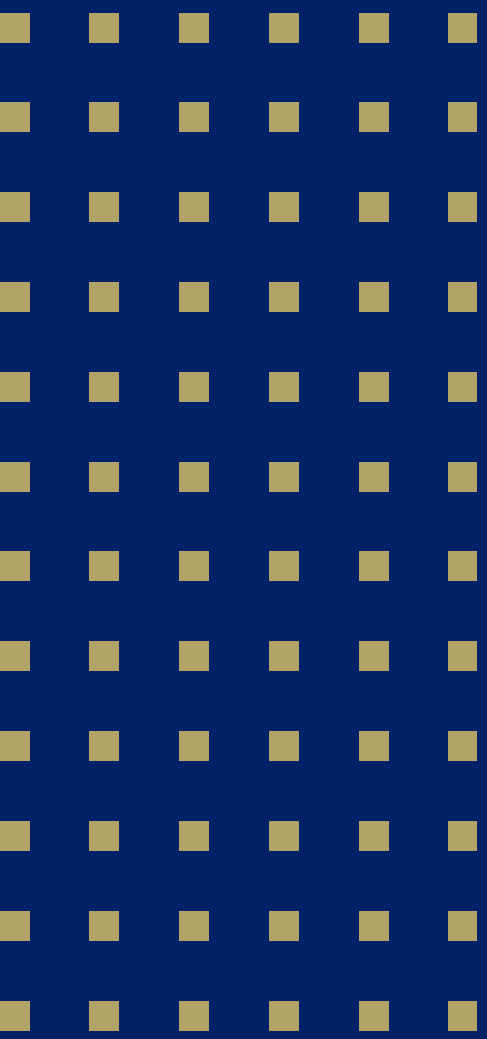
These two measures mean **NO NEW TAXES**

- Simply the extension of an existing sales tax, which has existed for over 30 years
- And approval of a financing mechanism that allows the city to take advantage of a federally subsidized program for transportation infrastructure.

Together, these two measures will:

- ✓ Fund critical transportation infrastructure and safety programs
- ✓ Support services and facilities for kids, seniors, and people with disabilities
- ✓ Have well-maintained public facilities to ensure quality of life





Driving Greeley

Food Tax Renewal

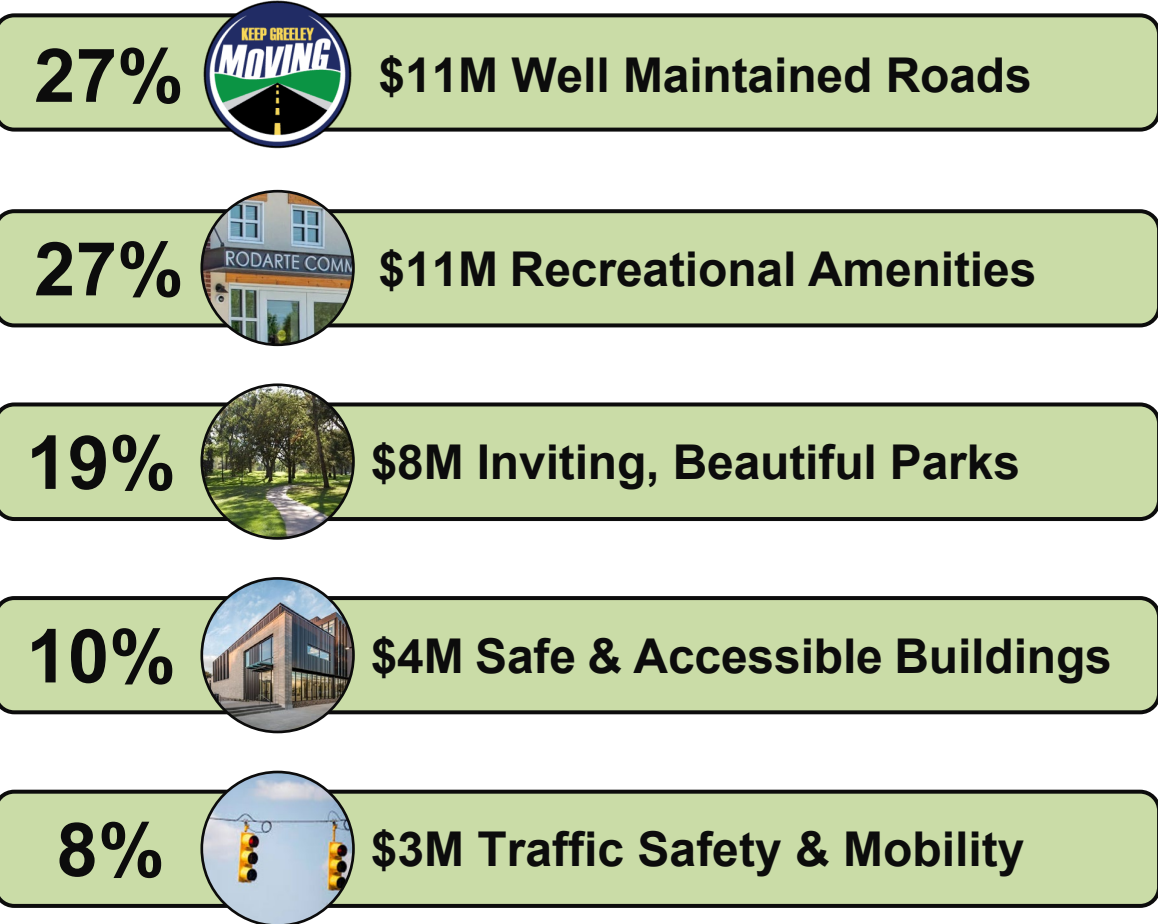
Driving Greeley: Food Tax

- Since 1990, Greeley residents have renewed a sales tax on food more than five times to support funding for **Public Facilities, Culture, Park, and Recreation Improvements** and **Street maintenance**
- This has funded important programs across the city that support:
 - Seniors – ex: repairs and upgrades at the active adult center, better access to public buildings for the elderly
 - Children – ex: traffic signal safety near school zones, funding for after-school centers
 - People with disabilities – ex: upgrading public buildings to ensure wheelchair access

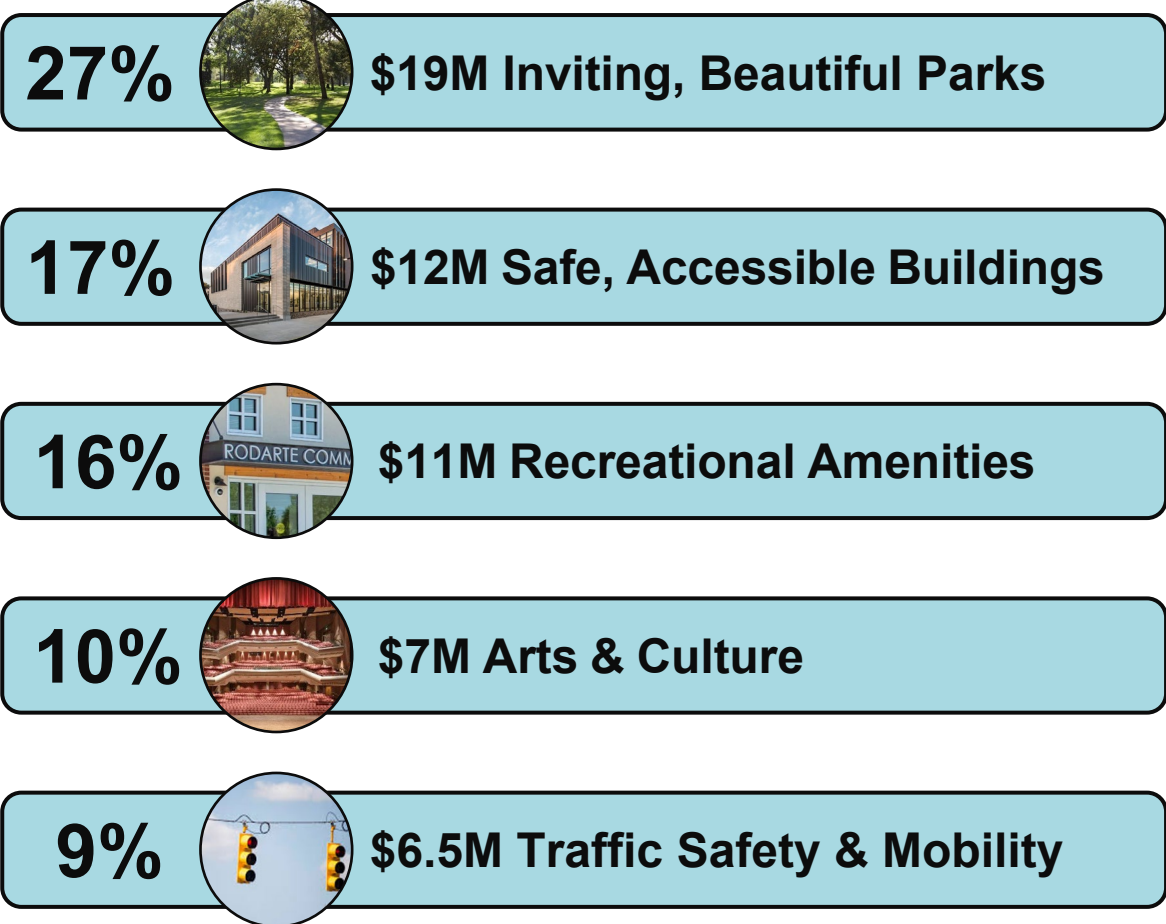
The City may ask voters to permanently extend the food tax without raising taxes to continue supporting community programs and improving the quality of Greeley residents' lives present and future.

Food Tax Funding Priorities Past & Future

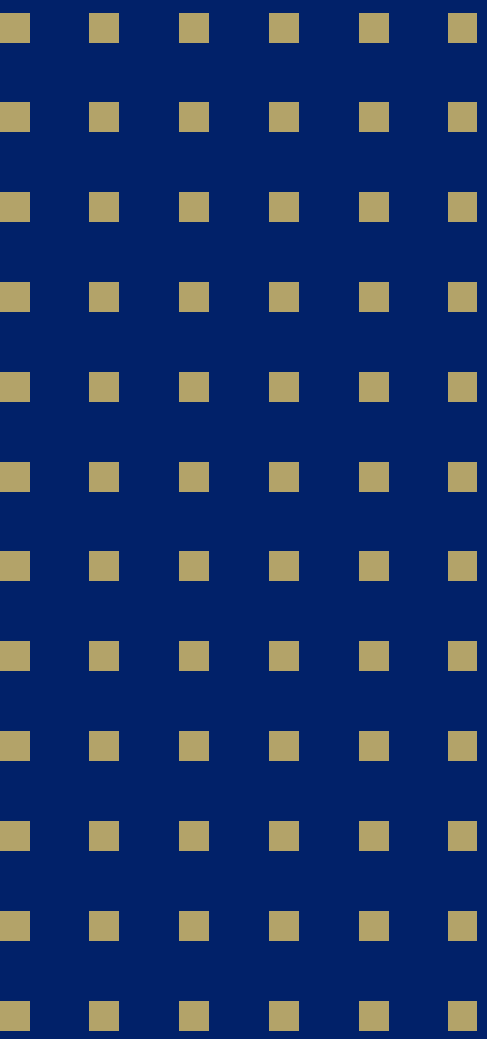
Past 5 Years.....\$41M Expended



Next 5 Years.....\$70M Budgeted



List not all-inclusive, reflects top funding categories



Driving Greeley

Infrastructure Funding and Debt Issuance

Driving Greeley: Debt Issuance

The City is considering a low-interest, long-term financing mechanism that would fund important infrastructure and transportation projects

- Think of it as similar to a 30-yr mortgage on your home – it's a way to pay for a large investment over a long period of time
- The financing plan requires a vote of the people per state law (TABOR)
- If passed, Greeley can take advantage of federal low-cost transportation financing **without increasing or creating new taxes.**
- The extension of the food tax would serve as the financing for the debt issuance

Driving Greeley: Debt Issuance

Priority uses for this federal financing include:

- ✓ Constructing new Highway 34 interchanges at 35th and 47th Avenue to improve traffic flow, decrease congestion, and improve safety
- ✓ Constructing traffic safety improvements and beautifying major traffic corridors such as Greeley's downtown 8th Avenue
- ✓ Expanding Greeley's regional bus service with routes to Loveland, Severance, Denver, and the airport

All of this would be possible without increasing or creating new taxes.

Rendering: 47th Ave Interchange



Rendering: 35th Ave Interchange



8th Avenue – Downtown



Protecting Greeley: Fire Department

Last year the Greeley Fire Department...

- ✓ Responded to 81% of emergency calls across the city within 5 minutes.
- ✓ Successfully managed 119 fires with zero fire-related fatalities.

To maintain this excellent service, Greeley Fire needs additional funding to keep stations staffed and firefighters safe as the number of emergency calls increase



Protecting Greeley: Police Department



Last year the Greeley Police Department...

- ✓ Responded to over 70,000 calls
- ✓ With an average response time for life-threatening emergencies of just 4.4 minutes

This new funding will keep our community safer by:



Enhancing Staffing to Reduce Crime and Improve Community Safety

- Retaining existing officers, firefighters, and staff.
- Hiring more officers and firefighters.

Investing in Alternative Service Delivery

- Enhancing police co-responder and fire Squad 1 programs.
- Developing specialized fire response units.
- Substation – Delantaro

Equipping Staff with Tools, Technology, and Training

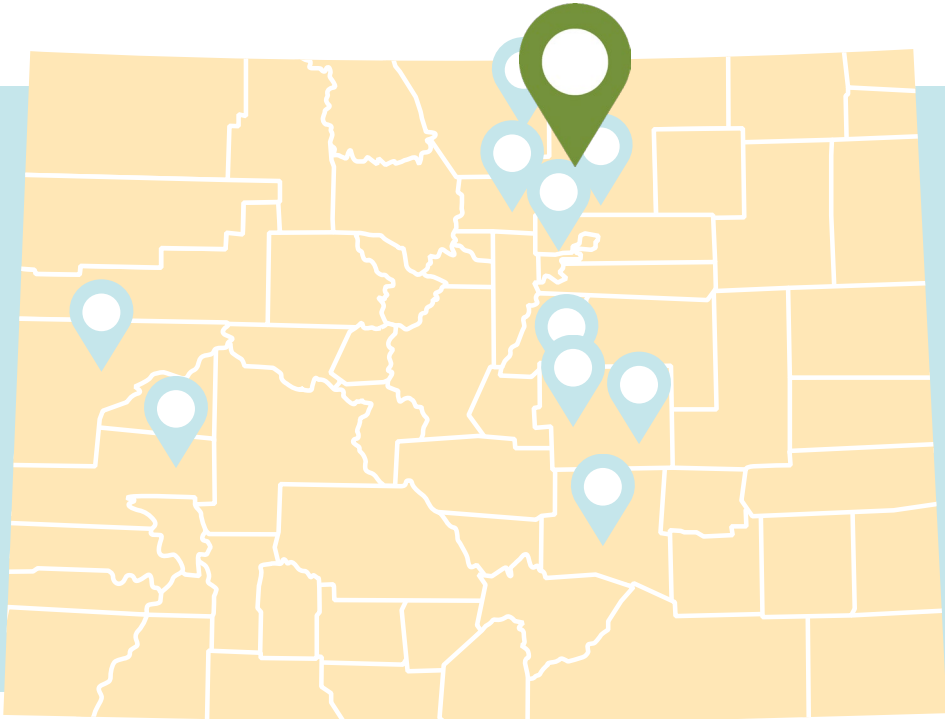
- Upgrading technology platforms.
- Technology through the Real Time Information Center
- Expanding the public safety training center.

Protecting Greeley: Public Safety Tax

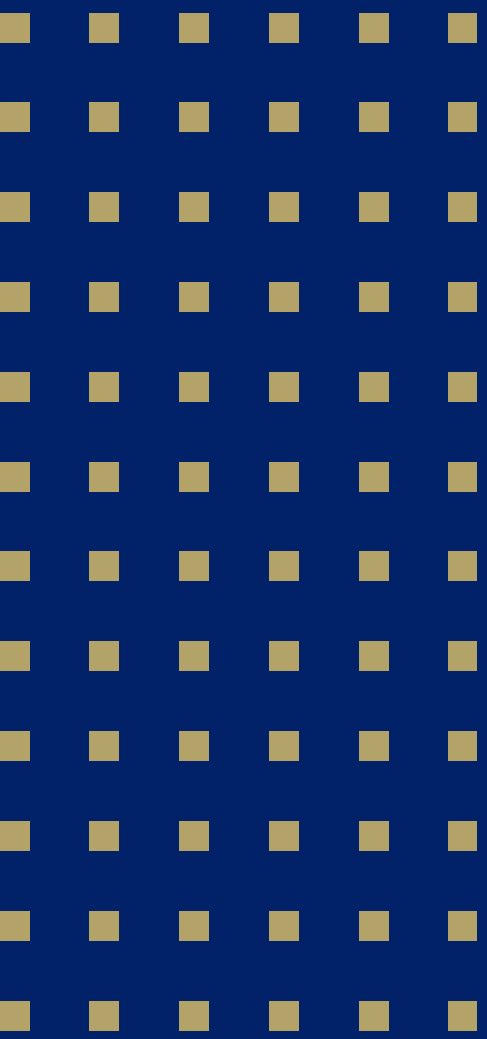
By increasing the existing sales and use tax (excluding the city sales tax on food) by 0.25%, or **just 25 cents on every \$100 you spend**, we can protect our firefighters and police from being understaffed and lacking time and resources to do important safety training.

This new funding source **would put Greeley’s public safety taxes at or below the levels of other Colorado communities** with a similar dedicated tax such as Firestone, Frederick, Monument, and Mesa County.

Jurisdiction	Percentage
Frederick	1
Fort Collins	0.6
Firestone	0.6
Greeley	0.41
Montrose	0.58
Monument	0.5
Northglenn	0.5
Colorado Springs	0.4
Mesa County	0.37
Longmont	0.25
El Paso County	0.23
Pueblo	0.2



This means Greeley is efficiently putting its money to good use for the safety of our first responders and our community.



What's At Stake

Driving Greeley, Protecting Greeley

What's At Stake

What's at stake if these measures don't pass:

Driving Greeley

- Delayed or canceled critical upgrades to our infrastructure, roads, and public facilities
- Deteriorating conditions
- Delays in road safety updates for residents
- Increased commute times

Protecting Greeley

- Underfunded police and fire departments, with continually increasing emergency calls
- Slower response times
- Less time for safety training for first responders
- Reduced safety for our community

Questions



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

STAFF REPORTS – August 2, 2024

[Diana Frick – Director of Culture, Parks, and Recreation](#)

[Benjamin Alexander – Business Manager](#)

[Eric Bloomer – Parks Superintendent](#)

Parks:

- The new shelter and picnic tables have been installed at Rover Run Dog Park





- A new ADA fishing dock was installed at Sanborn Park



- **New perimeter fencing was installed at the Youth Sports Complex**





- **Delta Park Groundbreaking Ceremony**







- **Kicking off the Lincoln Park Reimagine Project**
 - Engagement starts the weekend of July 27 and runs through July 31



Forestry:

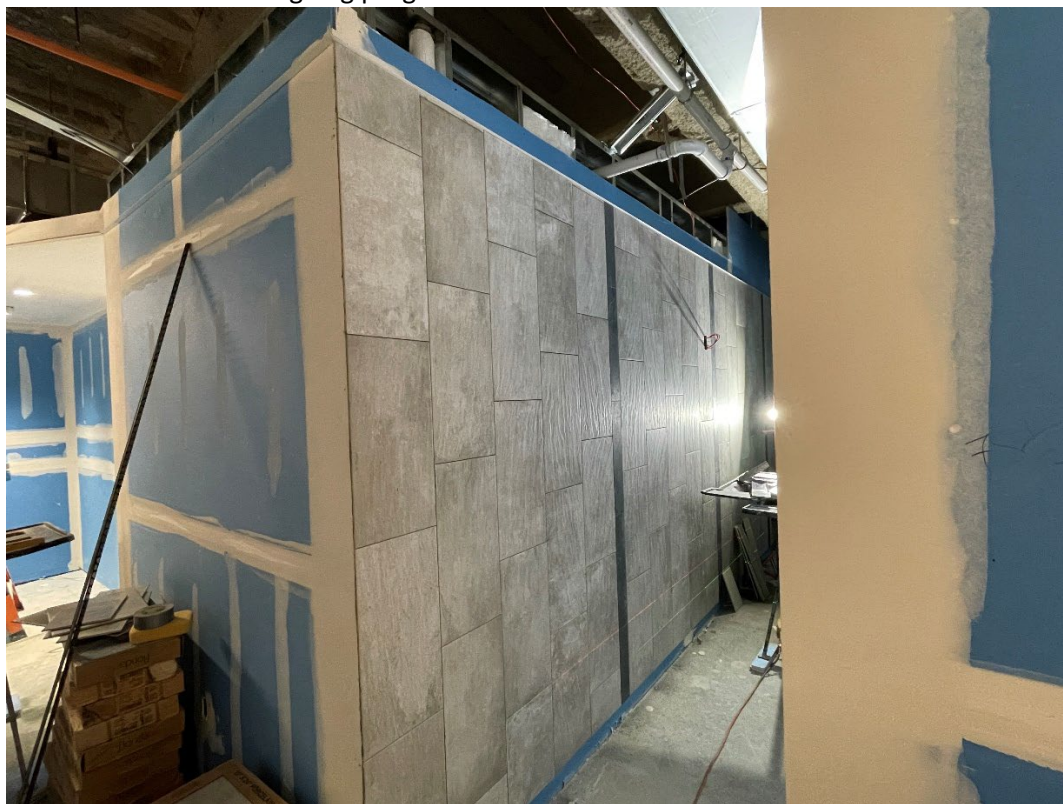
- **Kickoff of the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan**
 - Davey Tree Service has been hired to start the tree canopy assessment process. The complete plan will take approximately 18 months.
 - Tree plantings have started in order to meet the grant required 1000 trees planted between 2024 and 2026.
 - An agreement is being worked on with Habitat for Humanity to supply street trees for the Hope Springs Development, more details to come.

Linn Grove Cemetery:

- No updates

Daniel Lawrence - Recreation Superintendent

Recreation Center – Ongoing progress with Recreation Center Locker Room Renovation





Recreation Aquatics Program accepting a \$20,000 grant from Phillips 66.



Active Adult Center Classis Car Show/Touch a Truck



Justin Scharton – Natural Areas & Trails

Trail Counts - May 2024

Location	Month Total	Daily Avg (Month) Trend (prior month)	YTD Daily Avg Trend (prior year)
Sheep Draw @ McCloskey TH (installed May 2018; NEW counter with bike detection installed Aug 2023)	5303	171 ↑27.8%	96 ↓26.5%
Triple Creek Spur @ Mountain Vista TH (re-installed Aug 18, 2020)	3879	125 33.9%	88 ↓2.1%
Poudre Trail @ Island Grove* (installed Aug 2020)	4684	151 ↑23.2%*	114 ↓8.5%*
Poudre Trail @ Rover Run (new counter w/bike detection installed 3/6/24)	3974	128 ↑68%	105 ↓11.8%
Poudre Trail @ PLC (installed Aug 2020)	5786	190 ↑41.1%	101 ↓29.7%
Poudre Trail @ Poudre East** (Kodak TH)	n/a	n/a ↑n/a%	n/a ↓n/a%
Missile Site TH (installed 3/22/24)	2412	78 ↑116%	56
Missile Site Car/Bus (installed 3/19/24)	1470	47 ↑17.6%	43

June 2024

Location	Month Total	Daily Avg (Month) Trend (prior month)	YTD Daily Avg Trend (prior year)
Sheep Draw @ McCloskey TH (installed May 2018; NEW counter with bike detection installed Aug 2023)	5919	197 ↑15.3%	119 ↓22.9%
Triple Creek Spur @ Mountain Vista TH (re-installed Aug 18, 2020)	4454	149 ↑18.9%	98 ↓3.4%
Poudre Trail @ Island Grove (installed Aug 2020)	6241	208 ↑37.7%*	130 ↓6.1%*
Poudre Trail @ Rover Run* (new counter w/bike detection installed 3/6/24)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poudre Trail @ PLC (installed Aug 2020)	7187	240 ↑26.2%	127 ↓18.8%
Poudre Trail @ Poudre East** (Kodak TH)	n/a	n/a ↑n/a%	n/a ↓n/a%
Missile Site TH (installed 3/22/24)	1096	37 ↓53%	50 n/a
Missile Site Car/Bus (installed 3/19/24)	1308	44 ↓8.1%	44 n/a

LIST A NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

Whether it's our back yards or the City's natural areas, the reality is that there are species of plants present that are non-native and tend to take over due to lack of local competition. While some species can be annoying, others are particularly poised to wreak havoc in the native system. These species can end up on one of the State of Colorado's noxious weed lists. There are three noxious weed lists established by the State – List A, B, and C. While Lists B and C deal with species that are well-established in the state in need of suppression when possible, the List A species are those that are not known to yet exist in Colorado, or have very limited distributions and are required by law to be eradicated. Greeley has two known List A species: hairy willow herb and purple loosestrife.



Purple loosestrife in one of the City's natural areas.

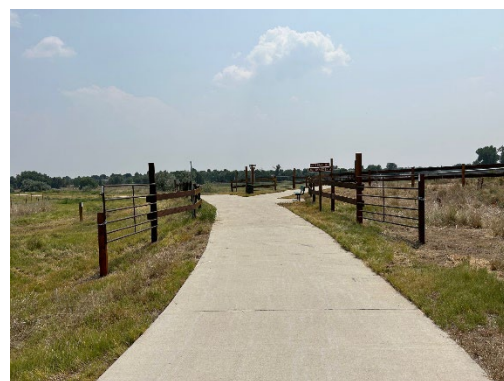
Purple loosestrife is a List A species in Colorado and is present in Greeley's wetlands. These prolific plants can produce up to 3 million seeds per plant annually, which can last in the soil up to 20 years. NAT spent 35 staff hours this year treating/removing 875 plants, a 35% decrease from last year's population.

Hairy willow herb is the other List A species present in the City's natural areas, and this plant can produce up to 70,000 seeds per plant annually that can last in the soil for over five years. NAT spent 84 staff hours this year treating/removing 1,974 plants. This is a 6% decrease from last year's population. With sound integrated pest management for these List A species, populations will continue to shrink in coming years.

This largely invisible work done by NAT staff is a testament to sound land management and ensures compliance with the State's noxious weed regulations.

SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS

Repair, replacement, and upgrades of amenities in the NAT system continue. In June and July, NAT repaired fencing at Signature Bluffs Natural Area, and installed new fencing and gates at the junction of the Sheep Draw Trail and the Poudre River Trail. This much-needed improvement provides more protection and delineation of the trails as they merge in this location, in addition to providing access for the ditch company and an easy closure for the Poudre River trail when seasonal flooding closes this area.



New fencing and flood closure gates at junction of Poudre and Sheep Draw trails.

OUTREACH

NAT staff continued engaging with the community in many different ways in June and July. Almost 50 trail users stopped by to visit with staff in the Let's Bike event in June. NAT staff passed out breakfast burritos and native seeds and chatted with users about the City's trail system.



NAT booth at Let's Bike event in June.

After filming an interview with a UNC PhD candidate who conducts bird research on City natural areas, the research partnership will be highlighted in upcoming City social media posts that can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9aSL6oNkTA>.

NAT has also hosted two STEP positions this, which gives local students opportunities to learn more about working within the City of Greeley as a future career. This year's STEP program participants monitored grazing lands, assisted in noxious weed identification, helped draft outreach materials for the public, and much more. The program has been a long-term success, with many of the City's long-term employees starting as "STEP kids" while they were still in school.

TRAINING

NAT field staff spent several days at the Bellvue Water Treatment plant completing their Wilderness First Aid certifications. This training provides the ability for staff to address medical issues on the trail system until professional first responders arrive. In addition, NAT field-based staff have been working on certifications for wildland fire, in preparation for future prescribed burns in partnership with Greeley Fire.



NAT staff Wilderness First Aid training at Bellvue Water Treatment facility.



STEP program participants monitoring grazing transects in City natural areas.

Archived agendas are located on the City of Greeley website: <https://greeleygov.com/government/b-c>