

Aug 6, 2026

Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Invited [Bradley Day](#) [Peter Wolfley](#) [Kaitlin Marsh](#) [Carlo Okolowitz](#) [Jenn Gale](#)

Attachments [📁 Natural Resources Advisory Commission](#)

Meeting records [☰ Transcript](#) [📺 Recording](#)

Summary

The committee reviewed strategic priorities, planned community outreach events, and addressed local tree and landscaping initiatives.

Strategic Priorities and Parks

The committee established outdoor recreation, agriculture, and healthy ecosystems as primary strategic pillars for the coming months. Reports indicated that the new bike skills park is currently seeing high community engagement.

Community Engagement and Events

Educational plans were finalized for a fall lake restoration event and greenhouse workshops to promote environmental stewardship. Members coordinated upcoming recycling tours and volunteer shifts for local markets.

Local Tree Initiative Oversight

Progress continues on the tree planting project aiming for 1,000 trees within 5 years. A decision was reached to investigate city management oversight regarding recent non-functional turf landscaping projects.

Decisions

Needs Further Discussion

- **City non-functional turf strategy investigation** The committee discussed strategies to reduce non-functional turf in city landscaping and decided to research the appropriate department contacts to continue this conversation at a future meeting.

Aligned

- **Strategic planning pillars confirmed** The committee reached consensus to focus their strategic planning on three pillars: outdoor recreation, agriculture, and healthy ecosystems.
- **Utah Lake fall event date set** The group selected October 10th as the date for the Utah Lake fall educational event.
- **Spring stewardship workshop approved** The commission agreed to host a workshop in the spring featuring past Stewardship Award recipients to teach community members about sustainable landscaping.
- **MCR recycling facility tour approved** The committee agreed to arrange a tour of the local MCR recycling facility located on Geneva.
- **Rooted in Orem tree goal set** The group established a formal initiative goal to plant 1,000 trees on city and private property over the next five years.
- **Stewardship award cycle launch scheduled** The commission agreed to formally launch the next Stewardship Award cycle during the March educational workshop.

We've **updated the Decisions section** using your feedback.

Let us know what you think: [Helpful](#) or [Not Helpful](#)

Next steps

- ☐ [Bradley Day] Contact Bike Collective: Reach out to the Orum Bike Collective to determine suitable nights for the committee to assist with the farmers market bike valet.
- ☐ [Bradley Day] Distribute shirts: Coordinate the distribution of shirts to new committee members.
- ☐ [Bradley Day] Plan lake event: Reach out to the Department of Natural Resources to invite a guest speaker for a fall hike and educational session at the lake.
- ☐ [The group] Record video: Participate in the production of the Rooted in Orum initiative announcement video by recording assigned lines.
- ☐ [Bradley Day, Bob] Produce chestnut video: Develop a video featuring information about chestnut trees to improve community awareness.
- ☐ [Bradley Day] Prepare leaf event: Review the budget and research activity options for the leaf art event scheduled for October 12 at the library greenhouse.
- ☐ [Bradley Day] Schedule recycling tour: Identify potential tour times for the materials recycling facility and distribute a poll to confirm availability.
- ☐ [The group] Brainstorm Booth Ideas: Develop concepts for an interactive display to be featured at the library seed swap event. Present these ideas at a future meeting.
- ☐ [Kaitlin] Contact Plant Society: Coordinate with the Utah Native Plant Society to organize native seed sources for the upcoming library event.
- ☐ [Kaitlin] Schedule Education Campaign: Arrange the specific social media education campaign sessions regarding the native tree initiative.
- ☐ [The group] Launch Award Program: Prepare for the official launch of the next Stewardship Trip Award during the March event.
- ☐ [Kaitlin] Research City Contact: Identify the appropriate city department responsible for managing non-functional turf landscaping to facilitate future discussions.

Details

- **Meeting Opening:** Bradley Day called the meeting to order and invited attendees to share one word describing their summer to initiate a positive tone ([00:00:00](#)).
- **Strategic Planning Pillars:** The committee reviewed the previously established strategic pillars, which include outdoor recreation, clean air, energy efficiency, healthy ecosystems, waste recycling, water-wise practices, and local agriculture ([00:01:10](#)). They reached a consensus to prioritize initiatives related to outdoor recreation, agriculture, and healthy ecosystems in the upcoming months ([00:02:45](#)).
- **Bike Skills Park Update:** Jenn Gale provided an update on the recent bike skills park opening, reporting that the event was successful with high attendance from the community, local high school cross-country teams, and members of the downhill-oriented bike team. The park is reportedly well-utilized by local youth ([00:03:56](#)).
- **Farmers Market Bike Valet:** Bradley Day suggested that the committee support the Orem Bike Collective by volunteering at the farmers market bike valet, which provides free, secure storage for attendees ([00:03:56](#)) ([00:06:11](#)). The group discussed coordinating with members to sign up for volunteer shifts on Wednesday evenings, and Sarah agreed to share the sign-up link. The committee also confirmed they would ensure new members have the appropriate shirts for these volunteer activities ([00:04:59](#)) ([00:07:29](#)).
- **Fall Lake Event Planning:** The committee discussed organizing a fall educational event at Utah Lake, focusing on local restoration efforts and native plantings. Members suggested connecting with experts from the Department of Natural Resources or the Utah Lake Authority to lead the walk ([00:10:04](#)) ([00:12:42](#)). Possible locations for the event include the Lindon Marina or the Provo River Delta, as these sites offer suitable trails and parking ([00:21:21](#)).
- **October Calendar Coordination:** The group reviewed the October calendar to avoid conflicts with school breaks and community events. They tentatively scheduled the Utah Lake fall event for October 10th to avoid overlapping with the LDS Earth Stewardship fall forum happening on October 24th at Utah Valley University ([00:18:15](#)).

- Agricultural Education Initiatives:** The group discussed potential agricultural outreach, including an orchard crawl or a food cultivation contest ([00:23:43](#)). They moved toward a plan to partner with the library greenhouse staff, where previous environmental stewardship award recipients would be invited to host educational classes on home gardening and food production, likely scheduled for the spring ([00:26:27](#)).
- Materials Recycling Facility Tour:** The committee discussed scheduling a tour of the materials recycling facility in Salt Lake County ([00:27:33](#)). Due to varying member availability, specifically conflicts with teaching schedules, they decided to distribute a poll to identify a preferred time, targeting either a Thursday evening or a Saturday morning .
- Local Metal Recycling Tour:** Bradley Day proposed a tour of a local metal recycling facility on Geneva Road, noting that the business owners are receptive to hosting the group. The members expressed interest in the tour as a straightforward opportunity to learn about the recycling process and material destinations ([00:34:17](#)).
- Rooted in Orem Tree Initiative:** Kaitlin provided an update on the "Rooted in Orem" initiative, which aims to plant 1,000 trees on city and private property over the next five years ([00:35:11](#)). The group is coordinating a tree sale through a nursery in American Fork and plans to purchase approximately 50 trees for community distribution in early September ([00:36:14](#)) ([00:44:10](#)). The committee plans to promote this initiative through social media and a dedicated video, for which they requested member participation ([00:38:08](#)).
- Tree Selection and Future Feedback:** The committee discussed the selection process for the trees, which involved consultation with city arborists and suppliers to ensure suitability for the local climate ([00:37:10](#)) ([00:39:02](#)). Bob recommended incorporating more fruit trees in future sales, and the group discussed raising awareness of notable existing trees in the community, such as local chestnut trees, to encourage public engagement .
- Library Greenhouse Leaf Event:** The committee planned an educational, leaf-themed event at the library greenhouse for October 12th at 6 p.m ([00:44:10](#)). They brainstormed potential activities, including leaf rubbings, cyanotype printing on canvas or t-shirts, and other leaf-based crafts, and agreed to research budget availability to finalize the plans .

- **Future Outreach Events:** The group noted upcoming programming, including a library seed swap on February 23rd, and a workshop in March featuring stewardship award winners. They discussed potentially collaborating with the Utah Native Plant Society for the seed swap and using the March event to formally launch the next cycle of stewardship award nominations ([00:50:39](#)) ([00:54:42](#)).
- **City Landscaping Policy:** Bradley Day raised a concern regarding the city's recent inclusion of non-functional turf in landscaping projects. The committee agreed to investigate which departments manage these decisions and to discuss potential strategies for advocating for water-wise landscaping alternatives at the next meeting ([00:54:42](#)).
- **Minutes and Adjournment:** The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the June meeting, followed by a formal motion to adjourn ([00:55:53](#)).

You should review Gemini's notes to make sure they're accurate. [Get tips and learn how Gemini takes notes](#)

How is the quality of **these specific notes**? [Take a short survey](#) to let us know your feedback, including how helpful the notes were for your needs.