

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE MEMORANDUM
#20-2026

DATE: July 13, 2026

TO: Honorable Mayor Meredith Leighty and City Council Members

THROUGH: Heather Geyer, City Manager *hmg*
Jason Loveland, Deputy City Manager *12*

FROM: Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture *ajp*

SUBJECT: Sesquisemiquincentennial Celebration Committee Update

PURPOSE

To provide an update on the Sesquisemiquincentennial Celebration Committee's work and request Council feedback on the proposed celebration activities and redesign of the Eleanor M. Wyatt Centennial Park and Sculpture Garden.

BACKGROUND

On Aug. 1, 2026 the City of Northglenn will host a Sesquisemiquincentennial Celebration commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary and Colorado's 150th anniversary at the Eleanor M. Wyatt Centennial Park and Sculpture Garden.

In 1976, the City of Northglenn renamed Civic Gardens as Centennial Park and buried a time capsule with instructions to open it on Aug. 1, 2026.

In January 2026, City Council directed staff to establish a Sesquisemiquincentennial Committee to help plan the celebration. The Committee includes City Council members and representatives from the City's boards and commissions. The Committee's work has focused on three primary areas:

- Recommendations for the redesign of Eleanor M. Wyatt Centennial Park & Sculpture Garden;
- Identification of items to include in the new time capsule; and
- Development of the August 1st celebration.

The Committee began meeting in May and has held three of four planned meetings. Significant progress has been made in all three areas of responsibility. As outlined in the attached presentation, staff will provide an overview of the park redesign and plans for the celebration, seeking feedback from City Council.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the August 1st celebration will be provided through the Northglenn Arts and Humanities Foundation, a sponsorship from Anythink Libraries, and existing General Fund allocations.

The redesign of the park is funded through an Adams County Open Space grant and the 2027 Capital Projects Fund. Funding has not yet been identified for the construction phase; construction is anticipated to be in three to five years. It is anticipated that funding will be secured through additional grant requests.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests feedback from Council on the Committee's recommendations for the celebration event, time capsule, and park redesign.

STAFF REFERENCE

If Council members have any questions, please contact Amanda Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, at apeterson@northglenn.org or 303.450.8950.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation

SESQUISEMIQUINCENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Amanda Peterson

Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

303.450.8950

apeterson@northglenn.org

City Council Meeting

July 13, 2026



CITY OF
Northglenn

PURPOSE

To provide an update and request feedback regarding the Eleanor M. Wyatt Centennial Park & Sculpture Garden redesign and the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee.



BACKGROUND



- January 2026 Council presentation
- Time capsule excavated on April 23
- Time capsule opened on May 4
- Contracted with RDG for park redesign in May
- NGHS time capsule art presented May 18
- Committee meetings held from May to July
- Sesquicentennial Proclamation issued on June 15



COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES



- Share vision and feedback on park redesign with RDG
- Plan August 1 celebration
- Identify additions to the time capsule



PARK REDESIGN

ESTABLISHING DIRECTION

- Maintain the “essence”
 - Preserve or enhance established memorials
- Highlight & protect sculptures
- Conserve water
- Create a sense of arrival
- Re-establish formal gardens
 - Mediterranean
 - Mountain
 - Plains
 - Formal
 - Bird Sanctuary
 - Japanese



PARK REDESIGN INITIAL OPTIONS

- Immersive



- Wayfinding



PARK REDESIGN

FEEDBACK

- Liked both options
- Meandering trails
- Add Southwest Desert garden
- Liberty Bell Plaza central to the park
- Similar feedback from committee and facility visitors
- Keep existing trees
- Provide more varied seating
- Use plants that will thrive in Colorado
- Include native grasses or other low-water varieties between gardens



PARK REDESIGN LAYOUT



PARK REDESIGN

MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN



PARK REDESIGN

MOUNTAIN GARDEN



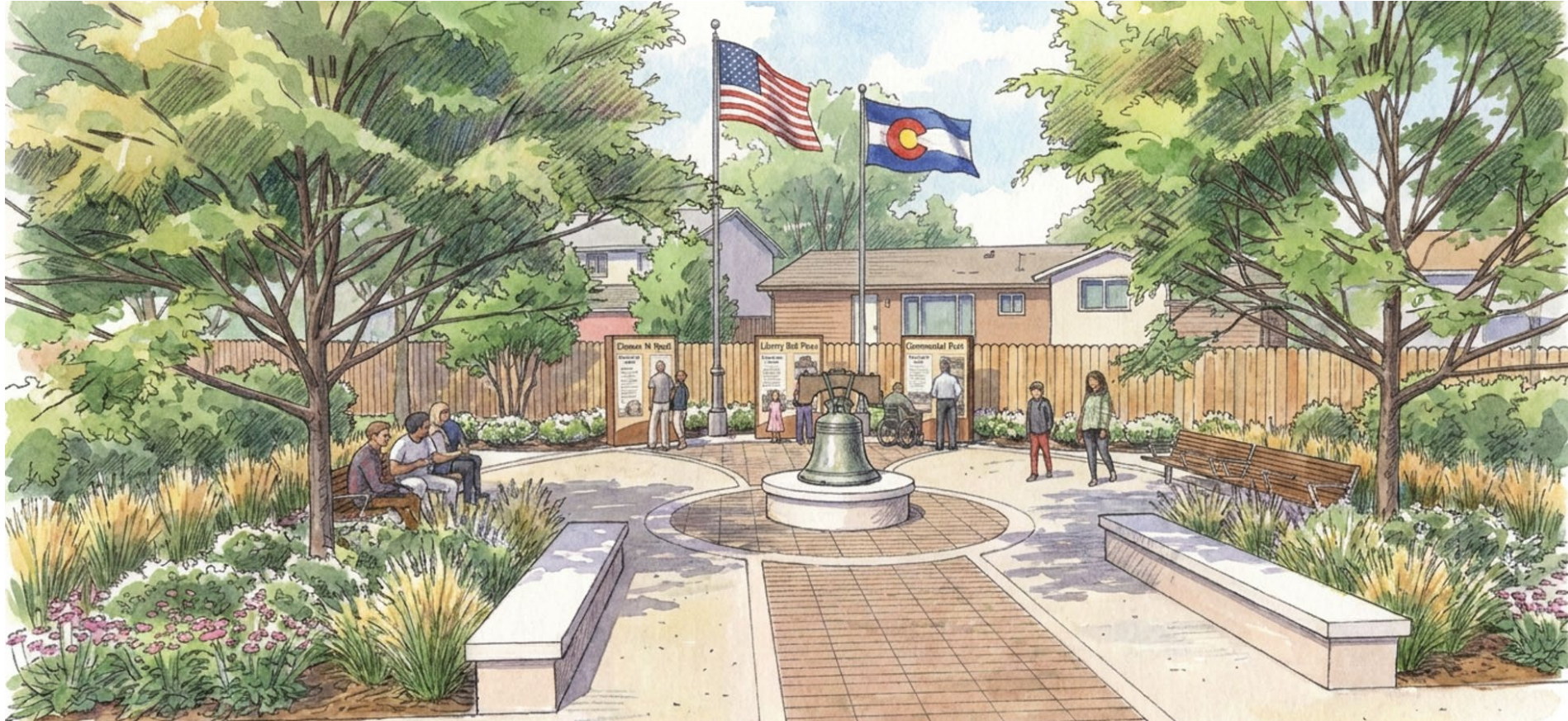
PARK REDESIGN

PLAINS GARDEN



PARK REDESIGN

FORMAL GARDEN



PARK REDESIGN

BIRD SANCTUARY



PARK REDESIGN

JAPANESE GARDEN



PARK REDESIGN

SOUTHWEST DESERT GARDEN



TIME CAPSULE

- Committee developed list of over 90 possible items
 - City
 - Businesses
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Aim to tell a story of what life is like in 2026
- Committee collecting items through mid-July
- City Clerk's Office cataloging items from 1976 time capsule



EVENT OUTLINE



Saturday, Aug. 1, 2026

- Colorado Day

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free to attend

- Food available for purchase

English & Spanish

- Bilingual event promotion and onsite translation



CONFIRMED EVENT ELEMENTS

Time Capsule

- Current contents on display
- New items added
- Ceremonial reinstallation

Community

- North Metro Fire Rescue District
- Star Spangled Banner (NYT youth)
- Adams County Poet Laureate
- Postcard Project

Northglenn High School

- Student art competition
- Performances by Northglenn High School Marching Band, Chamber Choir & Poms

Park Redesign Unveiling

- Concept design from RDG; construction drawings to follow



CONFIRMED EVENT ELEMENTS

Children's Activities

- Mini Time Capsule
- Coloring Book
- Face Painting
- Lawn Games

Food Trucks

DJ



NEXT STEPS



- Finalize park design
- Promote event



COUNCIL FEEDBACK

- **Proceed with the park design as developed by the Committee?**
- **Additional ideas from Council to discuss?**



QUESTIONS?



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