



COVINGTON 2030

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

DANA BROWN &
Associates



MARK R. JOHNSON
Mayor

PROJECT OVERVIEW



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PLANNING TEAM



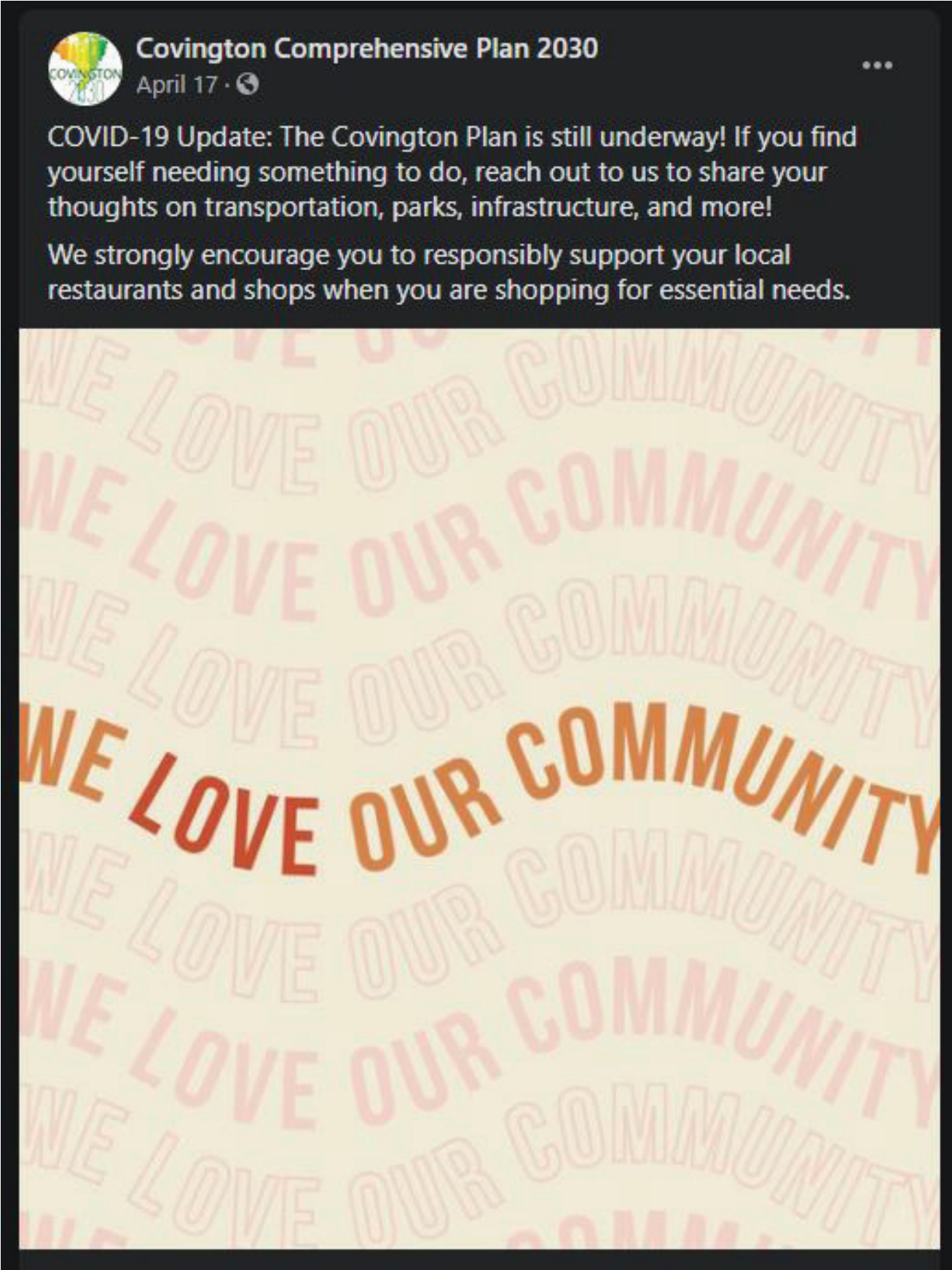
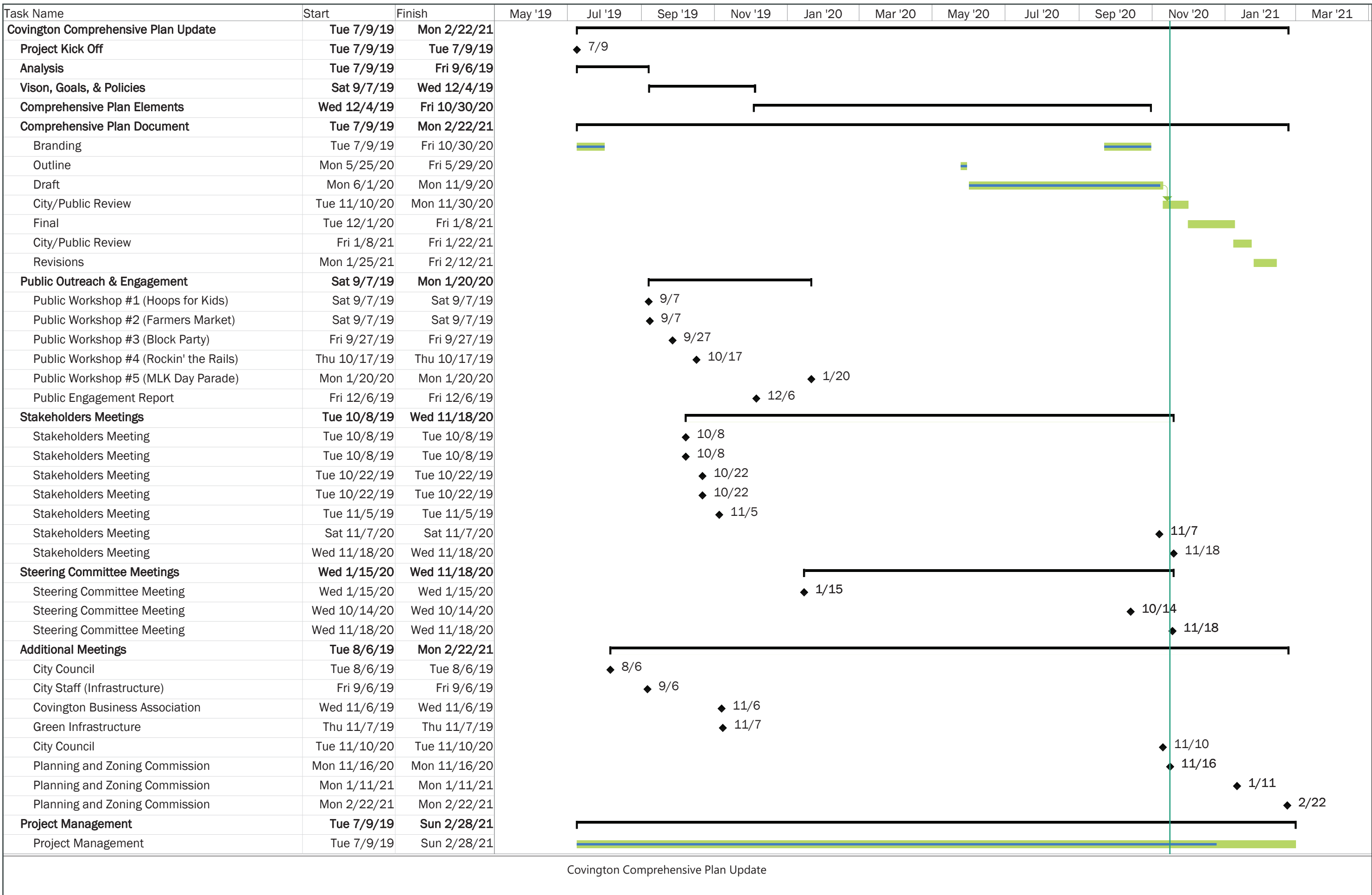
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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS



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PROJECT SCHEDULE



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PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Public Workshops
 - Hoops for Kids on September 7, 2019
 - Covington Farmers Market on September 7, 2019
 - Columbia Street Block Party on September 27, 2019
 - Rockin' the Rails on October 17, 2019
 - MLK Day Ceremony on January 20, 2020
- Organizational and Personnel Meetings
- Resident and Stakeholder Survey
- Public Engagement Report
www.covingtonplan2030.com/engagement-report
- Social Media & Project Website
[@CovingtonPlan2030](https://www.instagram.com/CovingtonPlan2030) www.covingtonplan2030.com

Housing

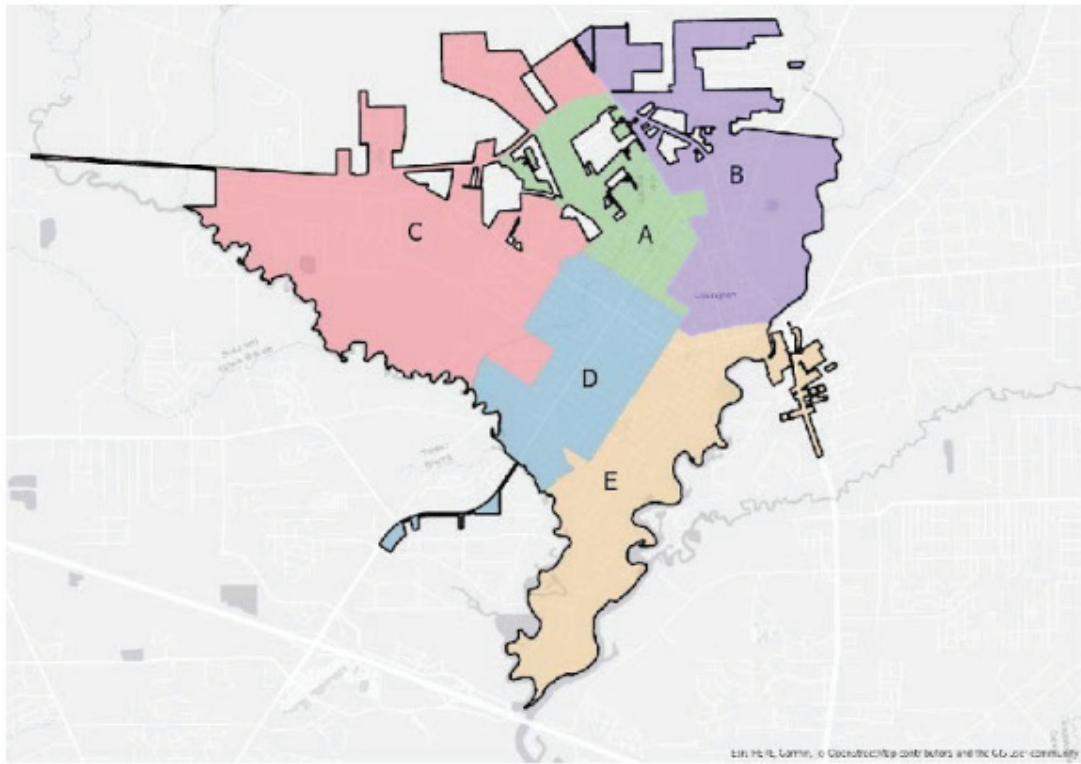
Where do you live? *

City of Covington

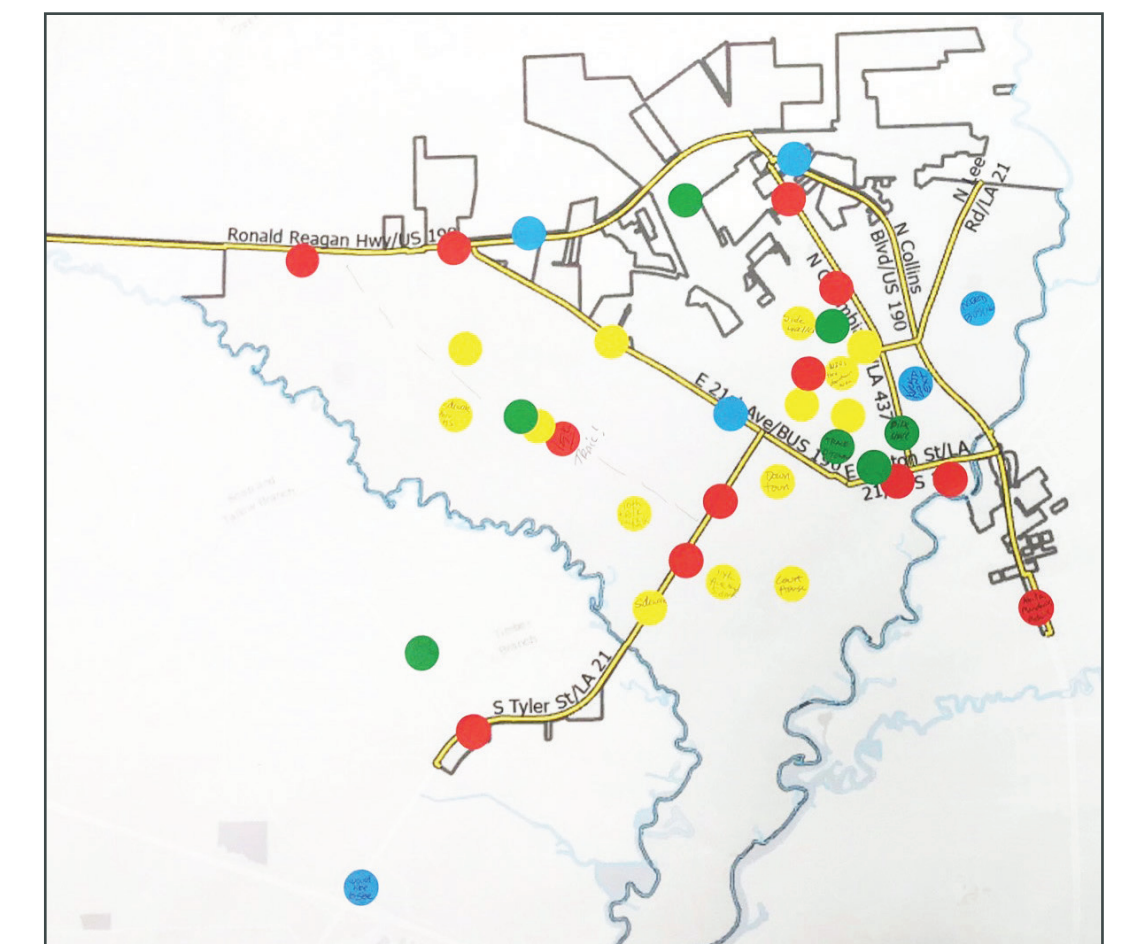
Outside of Covington, in St. Tammany Parish

Outside of St. Tammany Parish

If you live in Covington, which district do you live in? *



The map shows five districts: A (green), B (purple), C (pink), D (blue), and E (orange). District A is the central area, B is to the north, C is to the west, D is to the south, and E is to the east.



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PROJECT WEBSITE UPDATES

- Ways to Get Involved
 - Neighborhood Navigators
- Event Schedule
 - Meeting Presentations & Recordings
- Review Documents
 - Sneak Peek: Final Layout
 - Draft Report (Nov 2020)
- Personalize the Plan
 - Share Photos

The screenshot shows the website for the Covington 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The header includes a logo with a map of Covington and the text 'COVINGTON 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN'. Navigation links are 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'EVENTS', 'GET INVOLVED', 'REVIEW', and 'CONTACT'. A highlighted button reads 'SNEAK PEEK: FINAL LAYOUT PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT REPORT'. The main content area features the heading 'Become a Neighborhood Navigator' and a paragraph explaining the role of neighborhood navigators. Below this is a form with fields for 'Name *' (split into 'First Name' and 'Last Name'), and 'Phone *' (split into three boxes for area code, prefix, and number). The phone field labels are '(###)', '###', and '####' respectively.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NAVIGATORS: OVERVIEW

GETTING STARTED

- √ Sign up in-person or on the website
- √ Review training materials sent to you
- √ Confirm your interest in serving

IN ACTION

- √ Talk to your neighbors
(in-person, phone, email, social)
- √ Get to know your neighborhood
- √ Discuss opportunities and needs
- √ Develop ideas for improvements
- √ Share results with the planning team



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NEIGHBORHOOD NAVIGATORS: DISCUSSION PROMPTS

- Identify what you already know and learn more
 - How did your neighborhood form?
 - What trends do you notice?
 - Who is your councilmember?
- Making things happen
 - Name three people who would be interested in the plan. Send them the project website or invite them to follow the social media pages.
 - Identify two projects you wish to see implemented - expanded programming, filling in gaps, etc.
 - Contact one person from the next generation. Ask their opinions and consider any differences in perspectives and needs.



PLAN COMPONENTS



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PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

The 2019 National Recreation and Park Association's Agency Performance Review states for cities with populations under 20,000, the median value for area of parkland per 1,000 residents is 11.8. District 10 includes 142 acres of public space for 10,416 residents. This accounts for a level of service of 13.6 acres per 1,000 residents – higher than the national median average. The Covington Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Affairs (DPRC) manages most of the parklands within the city. Table 6.1 includes a complete list of facility names, types, and sizes.

COVINGTON RECREATION COMPLEX

The Covington Recreation Complex (CRC) is a 37-acre active park located off of Highway 190. The CRC includes baseball fields, a practice football field, and fishing pond. CRC facilities are being updated to include an improved children's area and a nature and learning trail. The CRC also serves as the terminus for the Tammany Trace Bike Trail.

BOGUE FALAYA WAYSIDE PARK AND PAVILION

Bogue Falaya Wayside Park and Pavilion is a 13.8 park located along the Bogue Falaya River. The park is mostly passive, although events are hosted there throughout the year. Park amenities include river access, a playground, picnic tables, and a pavilion. The river is considered both an asset and a threat as shoreline erosion and silt deposits are common during intense rain events, such as Hurricane Katrina and the floods of 2016. Moreover, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality does not deem the river to be legally swimmable or fishable, limiting river recreation to secondary contact through canoeing and kayaking.

The City holds a master plan for this park that suggests projects for implementation. Recommendations include providing additional amenities and facilities, protecting the shoreline through slope stabilization, and engaging visitors with interpretive signage.

TAMMANY TRACE

The Tammany Trace is a successful rails-to-trails conversion that extends along the Northshore from Covington to Slidell. In 1992 St Tammany Parish acquired 31 miles of the former Illinois Central Railroad and, with funding assistance from grants and the federal government, transformed the abandoned railroad into an asphalted trail accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized users. Development of the

Tammany Trace was supported by the Rails to Trails Conservancy, making it the first rails-to-trails project in the state. The Trace is a popular destination for locals and visitors alike, attracting 300,000 users annually. Beyond its use as a recreation facility, its proximity to local retail shops, restaurants, and lodging also contributes revenue to communities along its route.

PROGRAMS

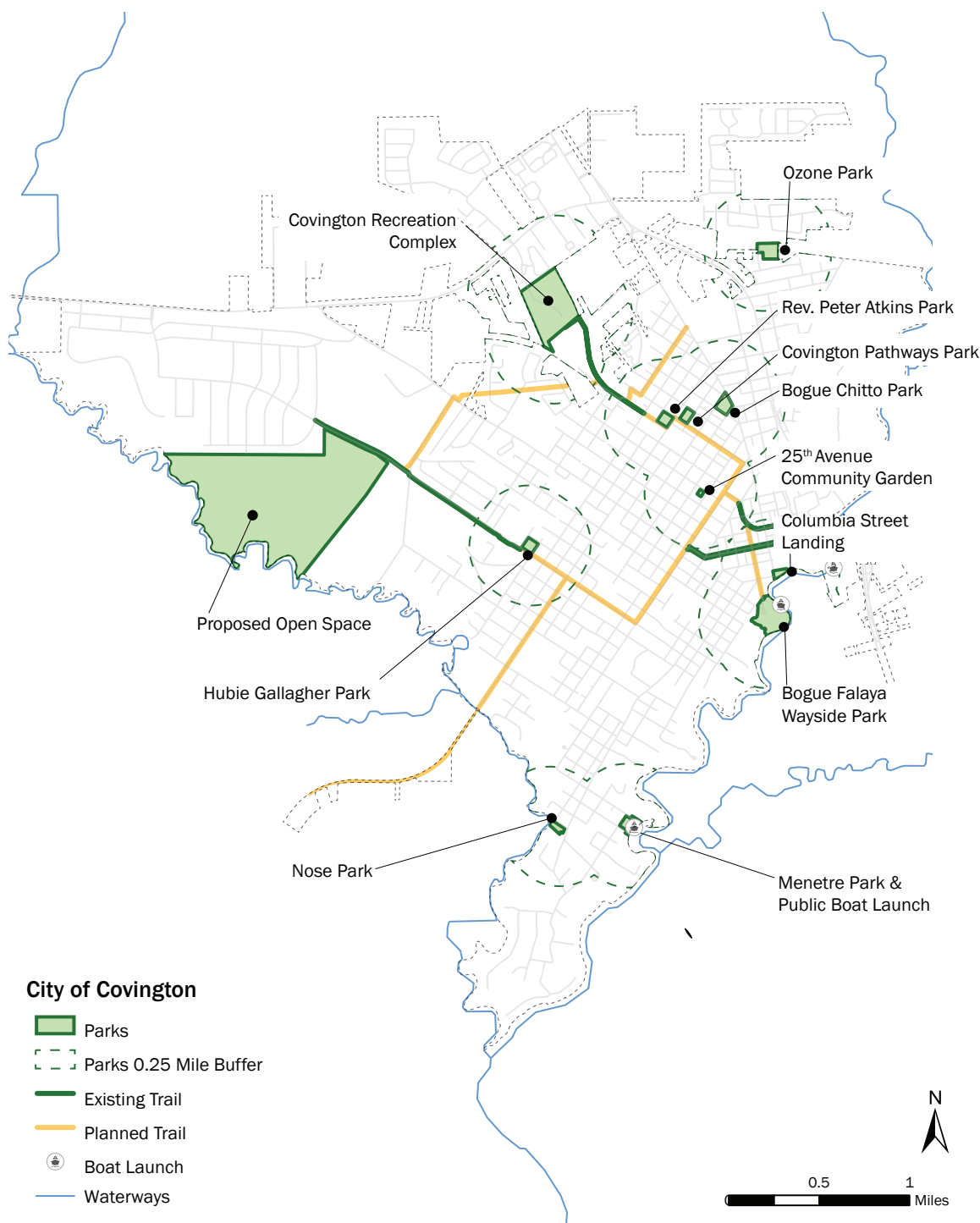
All programs are directed by the City's Recreation Department (CRD) and offered at the Covington Recreation Complex, unless otherwise noted. DPRC prepares an annual programming booklet that is available on the department's website (www.covla.com/recreation). Table 6.2 includes a list of current programs.

Program and event information on the DPRC website is updated regularly, particularly as sports seasons change. The website and social media pages are also accessible ways for residents to stay informed with park improvement projects and volunteer to assist with cleanups and other service opportunities.

TABLE 6.2: COVINGTON PARKS PROGRAMMING

Category	Program
Aquatics	Swim Lessons
Athletics	T-Ball
Athletics	Baseball
Athletics	Softball
Athletics	Fall Ball
Athletics	Tennis
Athletics	Football
Athletics	Cheer
Athletics	Basketball
Fitness	Outdoor Circle Exercise Station
Outdoors	Outdoor Golf Driving Cage
Outdoors	Blue Swamp Creek Nature Trail
Outdoors	Pond at the REC
Outdoors	Tammany Trace - Covington Trailhead

Figure 6.1 Parks, Trails, and Open Space



PLAN ELEMENTS

- Land Use
- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Economic Development
- Historic Preservation
- Community Character & Urban Design
- Place Making, Art, & Culture
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Environmental Quality, Sustainability, & Hazard Mitigation
- Parks, Recreation, & Open Space
- Healthy Communities
- Key Public Investments, Community Facilities, & Capital Improvements
- Plan Implementation

Source: Covington Plan 2030 Draft

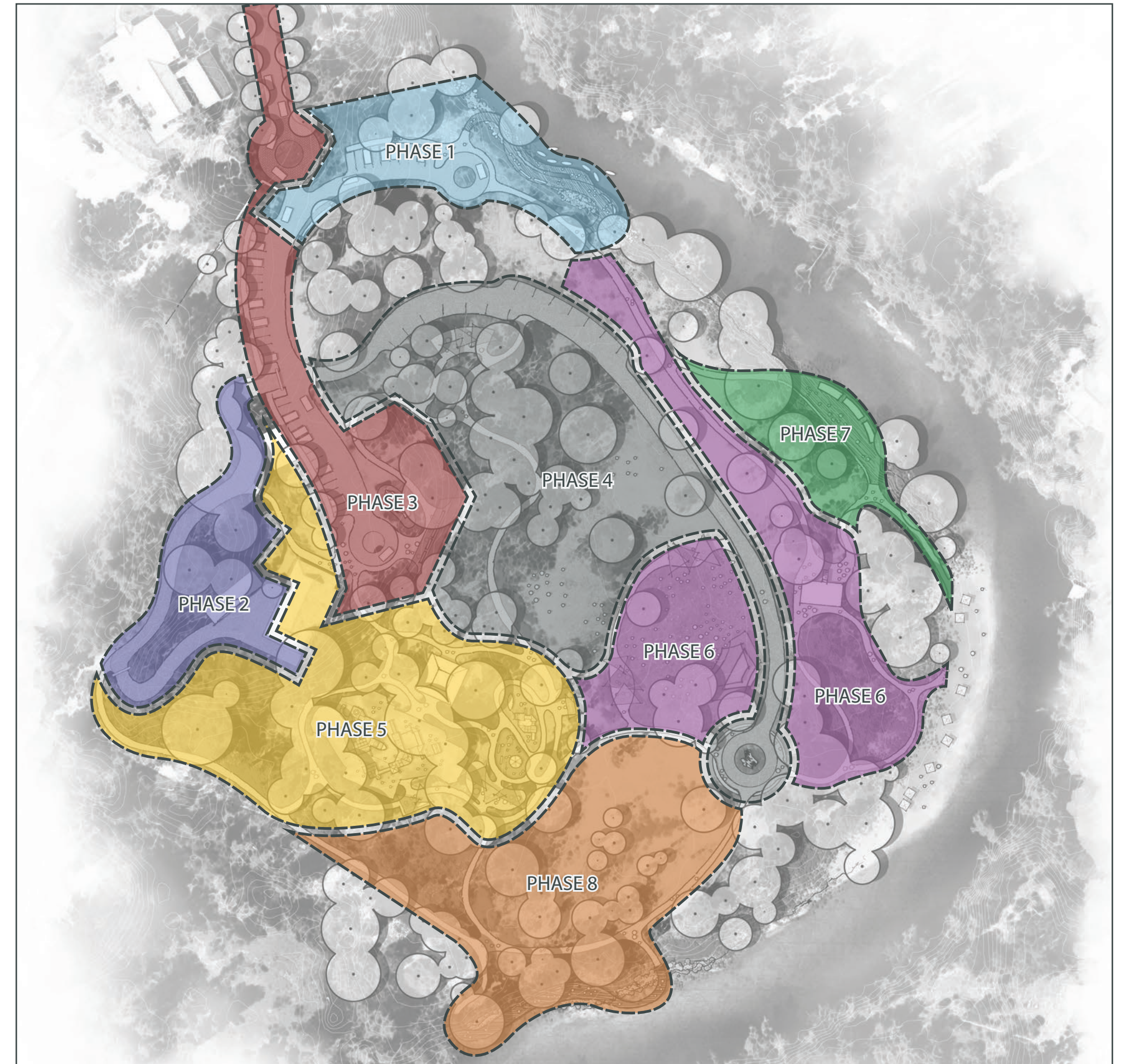
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PLAN ELEMENT STRUCTURE

- Introduction to Element
- Existing Conditions
- Current Trends
- Analysis
- Goals & Objectives
- Recommendations & Implementation

PLAN ELEMENT COMPONENTS

- Text
- Tables, Graphs, & Charts
- Maps, Figures, & Diagrams
- Renderings
- Public Photos

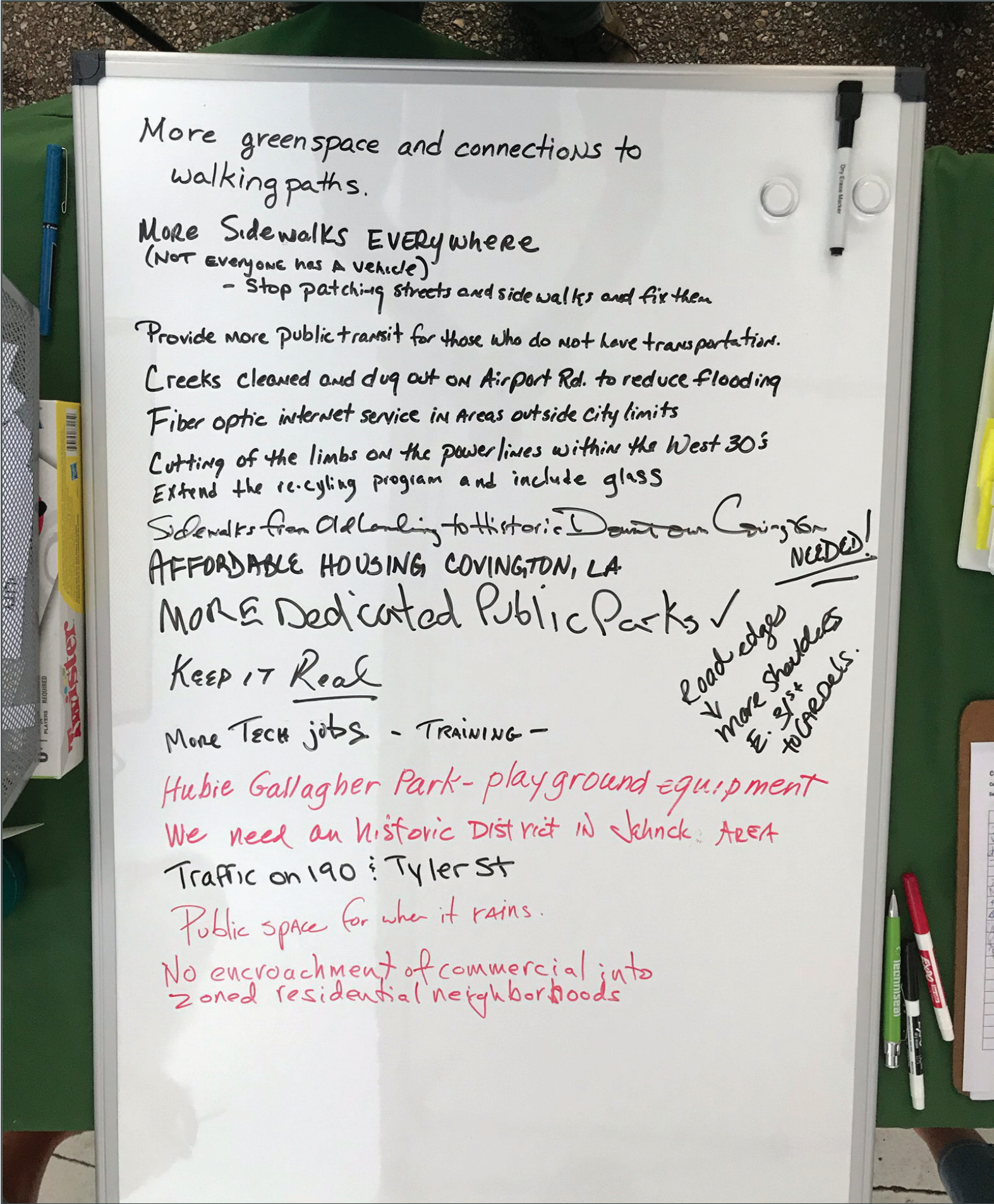


Source: Bogue Falaya Park Master Plan

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VISION STATEMENT

In 2030 Covington remains a charming city with a proud history. Those who live in Covington stay for the sense of community and accessibility to regional amenities. Covington is a healthy environment with beloved parks, waterways, and walkable and bikeable routes for commuting and recreational use. It is resilient to hazards and preserves its historic integrity. The familiar arts and music events remain highly anticipated. The city provides opportunities for small businesses and regional services to grow, allowing investment to remain at home and redevelopment to flourish. Housing is available for residents of all abilities and in all stages of life. Infrastructure is ample to match the growing population and the city's expansion. Covington residents, landowners, and business owners continue to work together to realize and evolve the values and goals of the comprehensive plan to continue the city's legacy.



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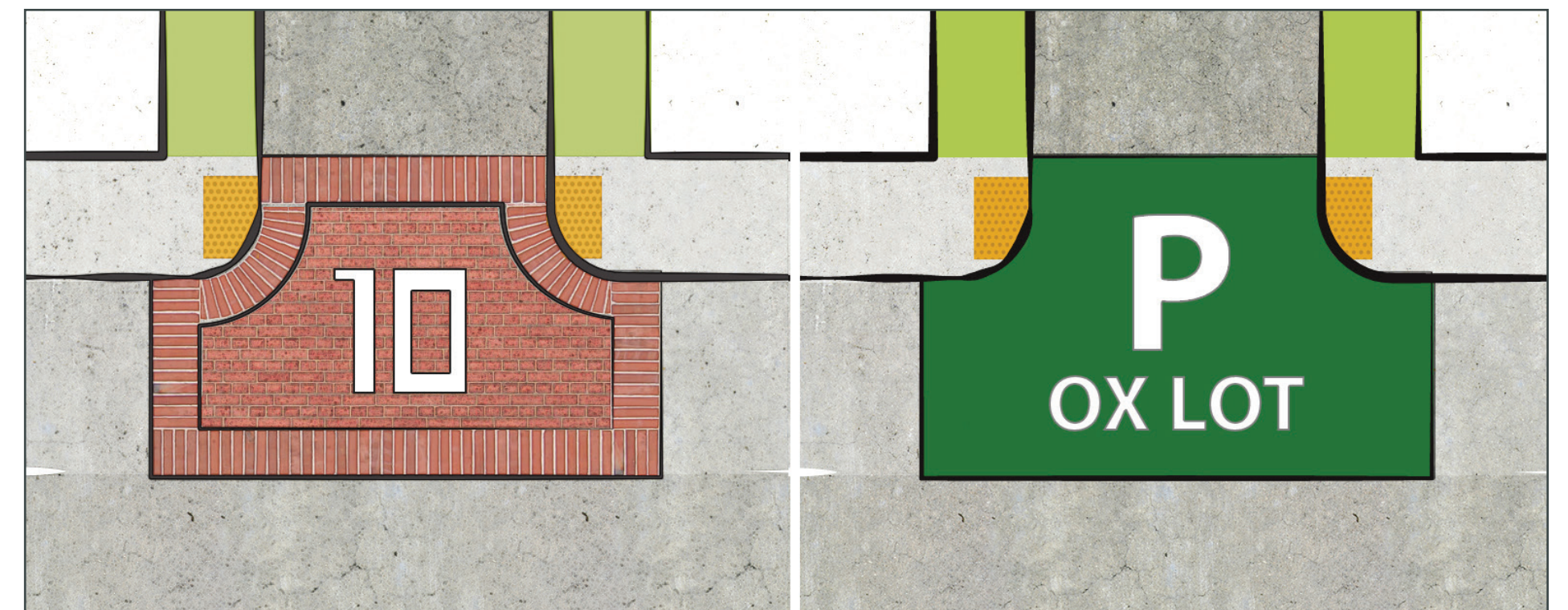
GOALS

COMMUNITY CHARACTER & URBAN DESIGN

- Highlight community assets
- Identify opportunities for interconnectivity
- Implement phased Complete Streets projects
- Maintain architectural scales

PLACEMAKING, ART, & CULTURE

- Promote and preserve culture at the community level
- Support the arts and local artists
- Continue to provide and promote art and cultural events
- Support creative placemaking through history and culture



Source: Covington Congestion Management Plan

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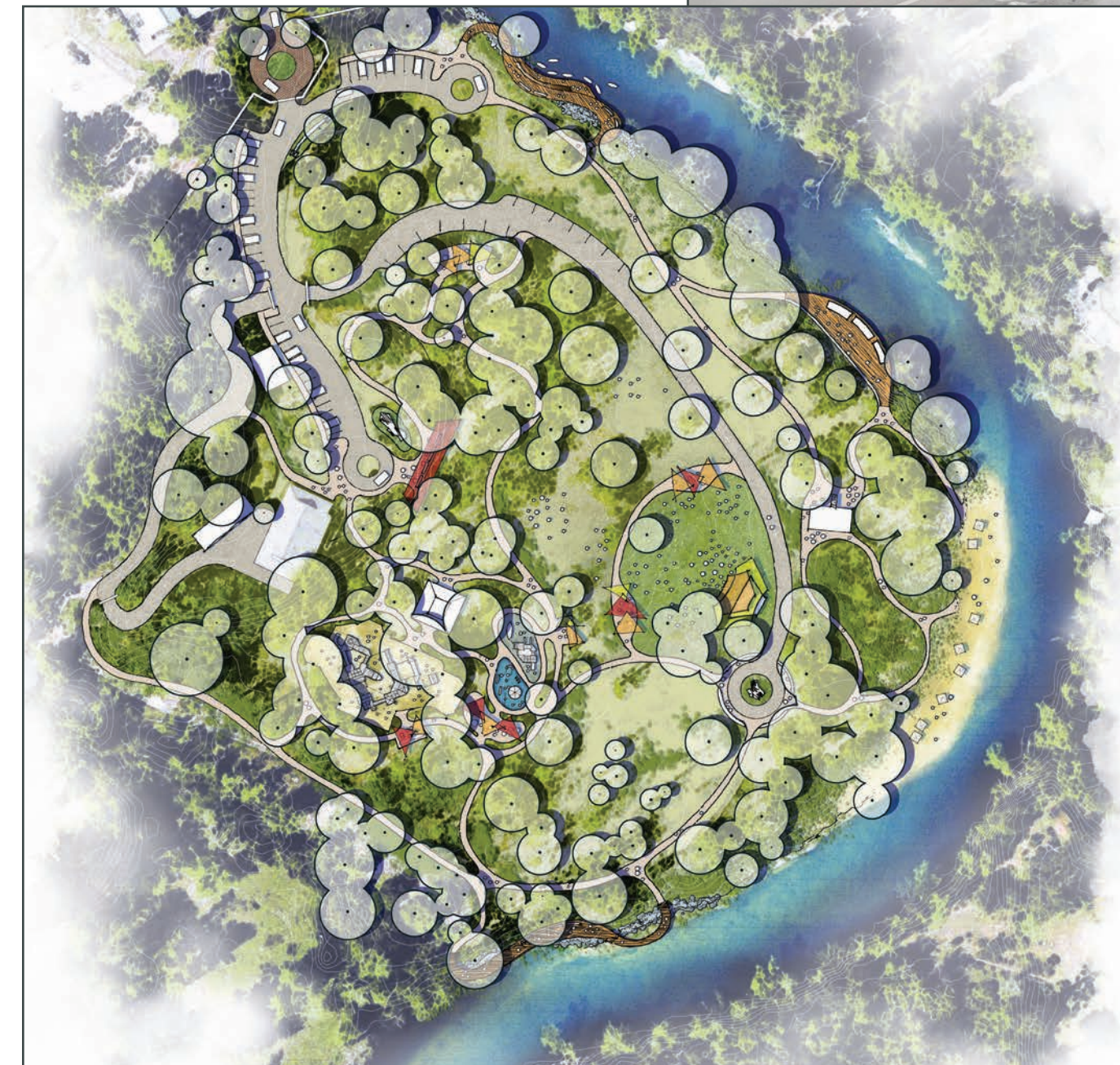
GOALS

PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE

- Connect residents to their public open spaces and natural areas
- Expand recreation programming for all ages and abilities
- Promote walking and bicycling with an interconnected multimodal system and events

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, SUSTAINABILITY, & HAZARD MITIGATION

- Mitigate climate impact
- Alleviate flood risk
- Enhance the water quality of the rivers
- Protect the urban tree canopy
- Conserve soils



Source: Bogue Falaya Park Master Plan

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GOALS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Facilitate the development of local small and mid-size businesses that support existing industries
- Identify opportunities to strengthen tourism/recreational opportunities
- Promote walking and bicycling with an interconnected multimodal system

HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOODS

- Expand availability of varied housing types to meet the needs of Covington residents and workers
- Address existing zoning and permit requirements that hamper affordable housing development
- Preserve the existing housing stock



Source: Covington Congestion Management Plan

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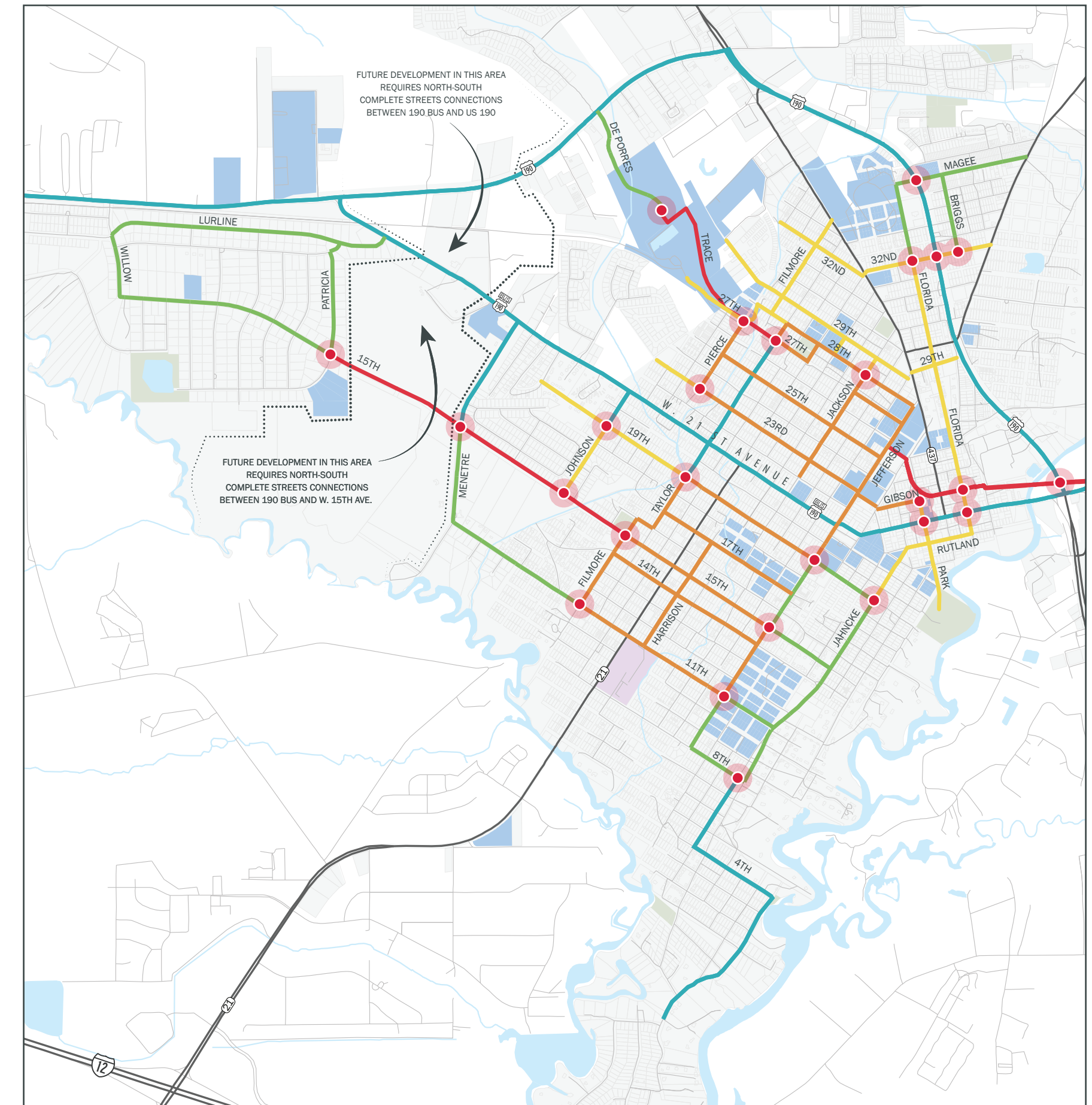
GOALS

LAND USE

- Guide development towards smart growth principles
- Establish future land uses to accommodate business and residential trends
- Anticipate the implementation of future projects and their resulting effects

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Implement the Congestion Management Plan (2015) and Covington Bicycle Plan and Complete Streets Policy (2018)
- Improve access to transportation for citizens of all abilities and means
- Make improvements to the city's aging infrastructure



Source: Covington Bicycle Plan

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GOALS

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Incorporate educational components into outdoor recreation activities for all ages and abilities
- Establish container or community gardening for populations at risk for food insecurity
- Reduce exposure to urban heat
- Offer tax incentives for solar-powered housing, farming, and vehicles
- Create a technology program that teaches skills and provides internet access

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- Designate and recognize local landmarks
- Expand heritage tourism and establish a heritage trail
- Preserve existing building stock
- Encourage infill development
- Seek opportunities for affordable housing
- Leverage historic tax credits



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IMPLEMENTATION

CONSIDERATIONS

- What public improvements are required to meet the 2030 comprehensive plan's vision?
- What private development policies are required to meet the 2030 comprehensive plan's vision?
- Who will be the responsible party to oversee the improvements?
- Which initiative, programs, or departments exist that could collaborate as partners?
- Are there existing plans that can complement the goals' strategies?
- What is the anticipated time frame for the project?
- What will be the fiscal impacts?
- How should projects be prioritized?



Source: Gretna Comprehensive Plan

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ACTION ITEMS

- Review draft report and provide feedback
- Share the website and social media pages
- Invite involved citizens to become neighborhood navigators

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Joint: Steering Committee & Stakeholders
 - November 18
- City Council
 - December 8
- Planning & Zoning Commission
 - January 11
 - February 8 or 22 (TBD)



WEBSITE

www.CovingtonPlan2030.com

EMAIL ADDRESS

info@covingtonplan2030.com

INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK

@CovingtonPlan2030

THANK YOU!