

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK**  
**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



**Public Space  
Management Plan  
Work Session**

**Presented by:**  
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**Housing & Community Development**







## What is “Public Space”?

- Owned by the City of Takoma Park
- Accessible to everyone who lives, works, plays, studies and prays in the city

### *Examples include:*

- City parks
- Sidewalks
- Curbside dining
- Roadways
- Parking spaces
- Playgrounds
- ...and more!



# What Public Space Policies Exist Now?

The city currently maintains a patchwork of policies used to manage public spaces:

- Multiple **departments & divisions**
- Multiple policy and programmatic **formats**
- Mostly addressed on an **as-needed basis**
- Developed over time **without comprehensive review** or consideration of equity goals





# What is the Public Space Management Plan?

The Public Space Management Plan **provides integrated guidance** on how public space will be used and maintained in Takoma Park.

It **creates a decision-making process** for how, when, and where the City devotes funding and resources to public spaces.

It creates a **framework** with actionable steps.

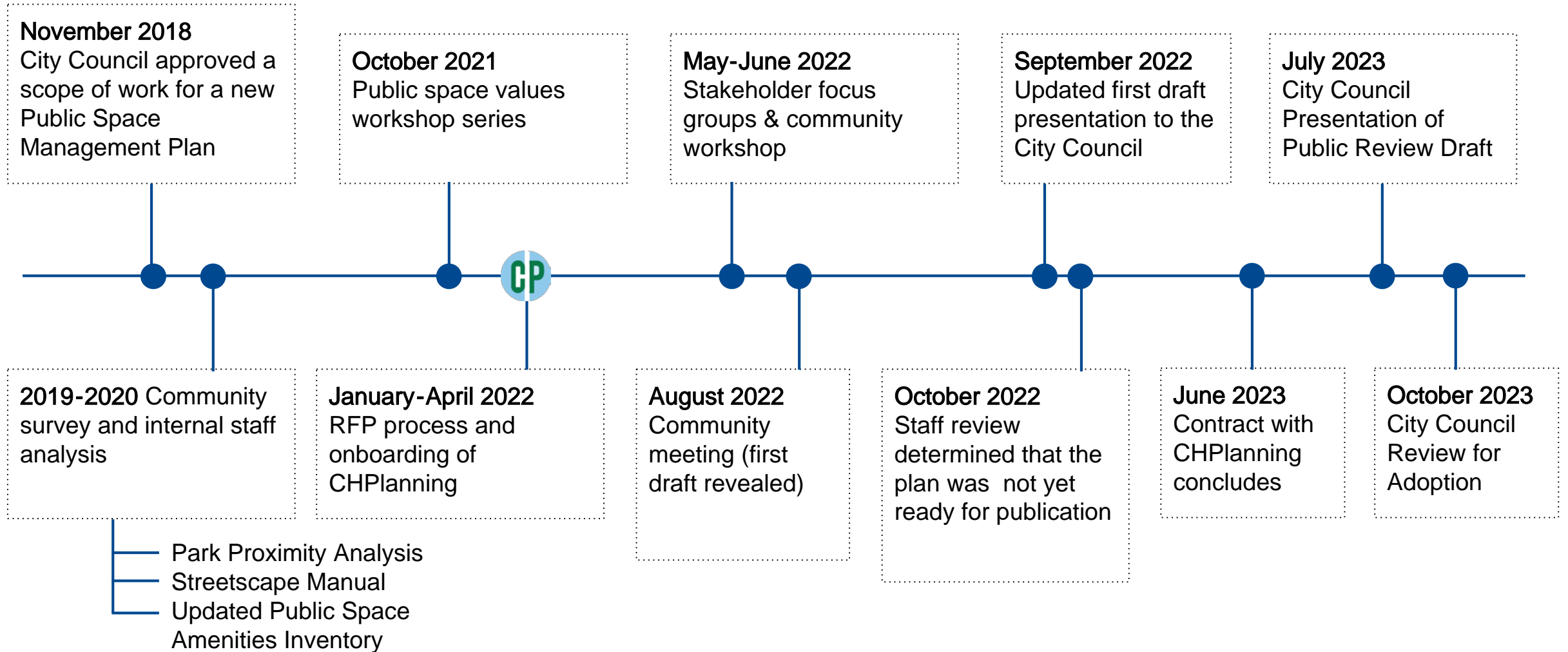


# What isn't the Public Space Management Plan?

The Public Space Management Plan is **not**:

- Capital Improvements Plan
- Acquisition Plan
- Recreation Plan
- Strategic Conservation Plan
- Traffic Analysis
- Code/policy change
- Programmatically prescriptive
- Funded directive
- A single solution to every issue encountered in public space

# Status Update







# Community Engagement

- 6 small-format community workshops
- 2 large-format community meetings
- 4 focus groups
- 2 online surveys
- 4 city council presentations/meetings
- 10+ flyering events
- 1 yard sign campaign



# Public Space Management Plan: A Review

**Guided by three values** that emerged in the engagement process as high priorities:

- Racial Equity
- Sustainability
- Safety

**Each recommendation includes:**

- 'Lighter Lift' vs 'Heavier Lift' designation
- Description
- Implementing Departments
- 2023-2024 City Council Priorities
- Estimated Cost





# Public Space Management Plan: A Review

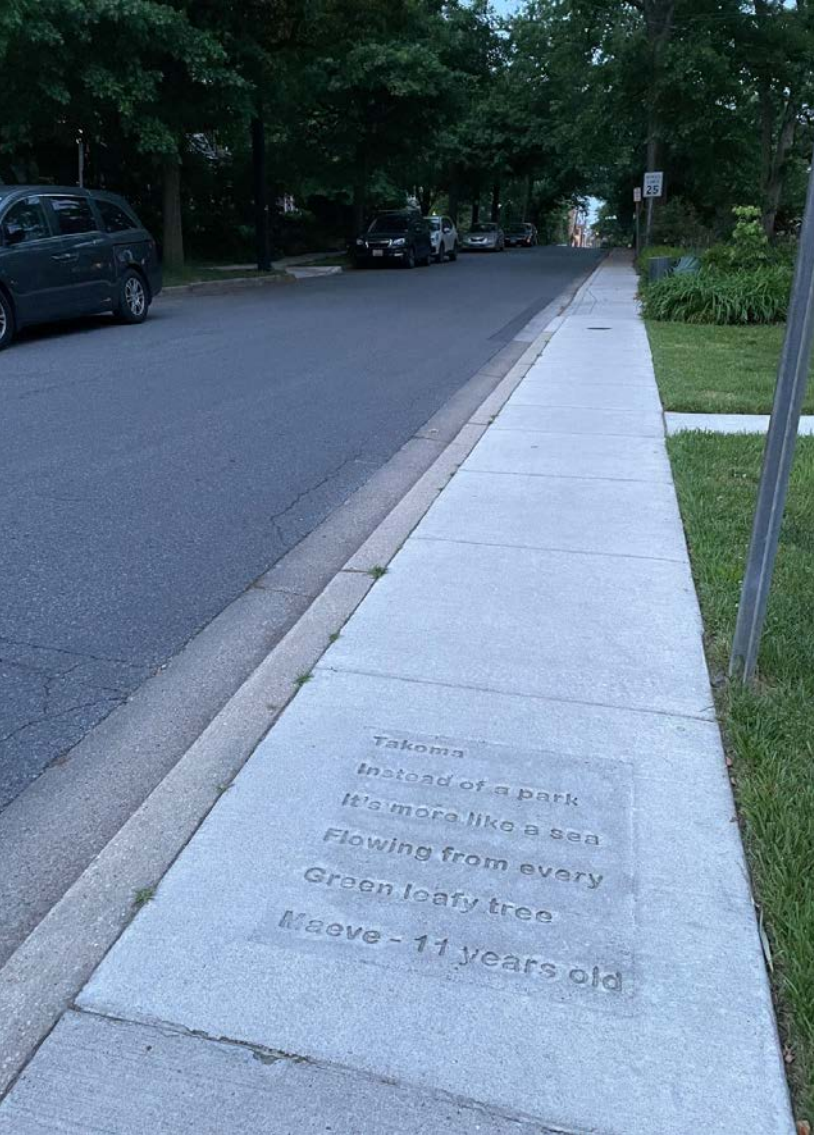
**37 recommendations  
divided into seven categories:**

1. Budget & Funding
2. Community Engagement & Planning
3. Facilities Development
4. Maintenance & Operations
5. Programs & Permits
6. Property Acquisition
7. Sustainability & Resilience

# Public Comment Period Findings

- Public Comment Period Open from **July 19 to October 11**
- **Three primary categories of issues and suggestions:**
  - o Corrections, Typos and Formatting Edits
  - o Existing Conditions and Recommendations
  - o Project Evaluation Scorecard





## Issues & Suggestions Raised | Corrections & Typos

Input from the public and councilmembers helped to identify typos, formatting issues, and other needed corrections to the Public Review Draft.

These corrections will be incorporated into the next draft.



# Issues & Suggestions Raised | Existing Conditions & Recommendations

## **Specific requests**

- Stormwater systems
- Watershed and drainage areas
- Tree canopy
- Traffic patterns
- Education/signage (history, environment)
- Civic infrastructure/Civil society





# Issues & Suggestions Raised | Project Evaluation Scorecard

## Changes incorporated:

- Adjusted scoring strategy (1, 0, -1)
- Edits to some of the bullet points within categories (ex: recognition of staff time)
- Addition of a template for a justification narrative
- Proposed timeframe for review in the future
  - 12 months after adoption (1st review)
  - 3 years (subsequent reviews)



# Immediate Next Steps

## **Before approval of the Plan:**

- Direction needed by full City Council for any additional requested changes
- Updated draft with staff recommended changes
  - Corrected typos and formatting changes
  - Adjusted existing conditions and recommendations based on feedback during public comment period
  - Amended Project Evaluation Scorecard





## Longer-Term Next Steps

### **Upon City Council adoption, staff will:**

- begin implementation of the project evaluation scorecard on new projects, included in Council materials;
- return to the Council for approval of any required code, regulation, and policy changes;
- return to the Council for any projects that require any budgetary allocations;
- take the recommendations of this plan as direction to pursue public space improvements, within the constraints of available budget, staffing, and identified priorities.



# THANK YOU

TAKOMAPARKMD.GOV

Learn more about the Public Space  
Management Plan at

<https://bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan>

or

search for 'Public Space Management Plan' in  
the City website's search bar.