

Takoma Park, Maryland

Public Space Management Plan

Community Meeting

June 27, 2022
7 PM



Agenda

- Introduction/ Project Background
- Presentation
- Breakout Map Exercise
- Group Discussion
- Next Steps/ Wrap Up



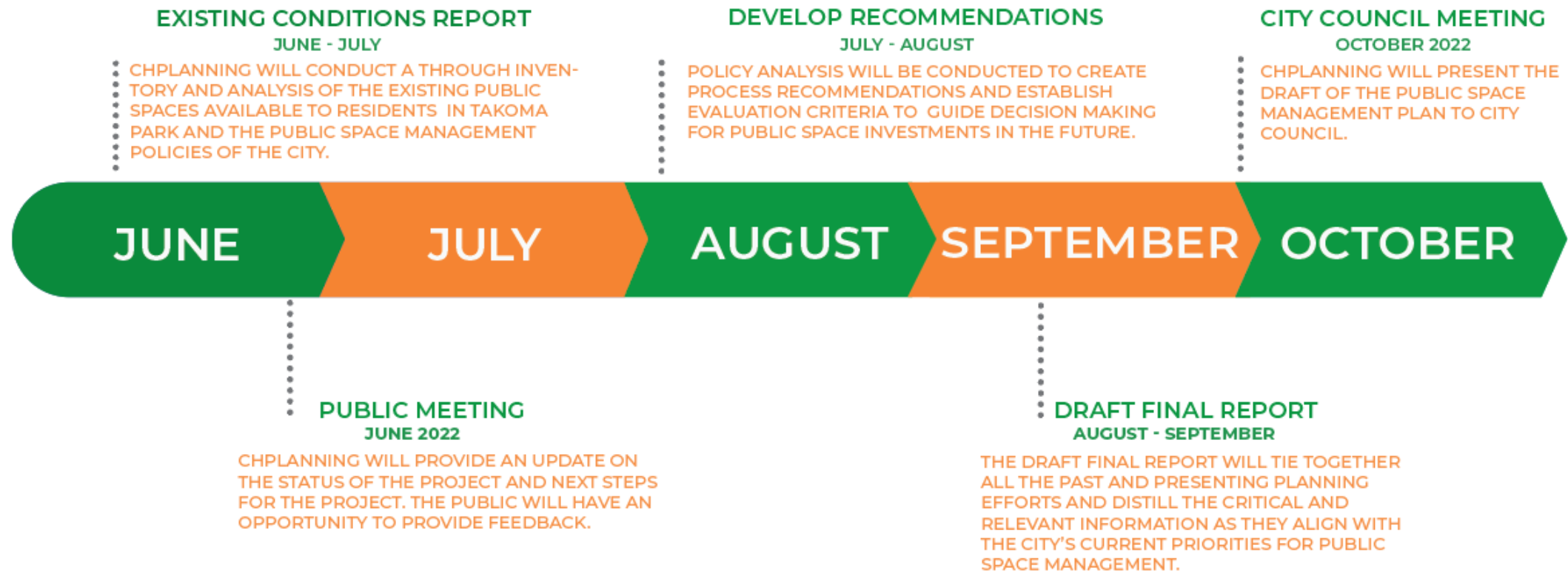
Introduction/ Project Overview

- The **Public Space Management Plan** will provide guidance on how public space will be developed, used, and maintained in Takoma Park.
- Components:
 - Existing Conditions
 - Policy Analysis
 - Process Recommendations
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Final Report

← We are here



Schedule



Stakeholders

- **City Agencies** (Recreation, Public Works, Planning/Community Development, Public Safety, Communications, Public Library, etc.)
- **State Agencies** (Department of Natural Resources, State Highway Administration)
- **Regional Planning Agencies** (National Capital Planning Commission, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission)
- **Non-Profit Organizations** (Main Street Takoma, Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority)



Existing Studies

- City-created Reports
 - Park Quality and Proximity Analysis
 - Sustainability and Climate Action Plan
 - **Public Space Management Plan Survey**
 - Park Inventory
 - Equity Walk
- External Reports
 - Montgomery County (Pedestrian Master Plan, Bicycle Master Plan, Racial Equity and Social Justice Toolkit)
 - State/Federal/Non-Profit Agencies (CDC Social Vulnerability Map, DEP Park Equity Map, University of Maryland Paper Street Map)



Survey Results

- Survey Responses:

- 225 unique responses between September 2020 – March 2021
- Over 3/4^{ths} lived in Wards 1,2, or 3
- Mostly White respondents (83%)
- Mostly aged 45+ (63%)

- Findings:

- Residents want: natural areas, gathering spaces like plazas, repurposed streets, and playgrounds
- Residents prioritize maintaining and improving existing public space; equal access to public space



Youth Outreach

- Youth workshop, helped us gain critical insights into how young people in the community perceive and use public space.
- Targeted engagement allows for special needs to be addressed through planning.



Equity

- **What we have:**

- Park Quality and Proximity Analysis – records park condition and residents' walking distance from park
- CDC Social Vulnerability Maps - show location of most vulnerable residents
- MD DEP Park Equity Maps
- Maps illustrating unequal distribution of sidewalks and bus shelters

- **What we need:** a cohesive decision-making tool that can determine how to prioritize public space investments



Sidewalks

- **What we have:**
 - Gaps in sidewalk network, especially around schools
 - Dangerous street crossings, especially along SHA roads
- **What we need:** an approach that closes the gaps in the sidewalk network and promotes overall pedestrian safety and mobility



Paper Streets/Cowpaths

- **What we have:** Full inventory of known “paper streets” (streets that were planned but never built)
- **Opportunity:** to transform paper streets into safe, accessible, and useful open spaces

