

In light of the current public health crisis and the Federal, State, and County Emergency Declarations, and in accord with the provisions of Sec. 610.020, RSMo., the Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that it would be dangerous and impractical, if not impossible, for its meeting to be physically accessible to the public. The Commission also recognizes the need for the public's business to be attended to in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. In order to balance both the need for continuity of government and protection of the health and safety of our residents, business persons, and employees, this meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will not be open to public attendance in person. The meeting will be accessible by the public in real time ONLY by following the instructions in the box below.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.  
When: Jan 8, 2024 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)  
Topic: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87972121256>

Or One tap mobile :

+16469313860,,87972121256# US  
+19292056099,,87972121256# US (New York)

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):  
+1 646 931 3860 US  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 305 224 1968 US  
+1 309 205 3325 US

Persons interested in making their views known on any matter on the agenda should send an email with their comments to the Director of Parks and Recreation at [tsiering@claytonmo.gov](mailto:tsiering@claytonmo.gov). All comments received will be distributed to the entire Commission/Board before the meeting. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we all try to get through these difficult and dangerous times.



**City of Clayton  
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting  
Monday, January 8, 2024  
7:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting**

| <b>----- Agenda Topics -----</b>                |                |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| <b>Topic</b>                                    |                | <b>Notes</b> |
| 1. Approval of Minutes                          | Eric Schneider |              |
| 2. Addresses from the Audience                  | Eric Schneider |              |
| 3. Community Fruit Orchard at Anderson Park     | Justin Whipple |              |
| 4. Shaw Park Aquatic Center Seasonal Operations | Toni Siering   |              |
| 5. Director's Report                            | Toni Siering   |              |
| 5. Old Business/New Business                    | Eric Schneider |              |
|   |                |              |

**Attachments:**

Minutes – December 5, 2022

**Notes:**

Next Meeting: Monday, February 7, 2022

**Clayton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, December 4, 2023**

**Commission Members Present:** Ben Beinfeld, Karen Berry Elbert, Susan Buse, Jim Craig, Matt Durham, Eric Schneider, Adam Weygandt

**Commission Members Absent:** Ira Berkowitz, Daniel Henke-Cilenti, Gary Pierson

**Staff Present:** Lori Rice, Doris Patzius, Toni Siering, Justin Whipple

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes from the November meeting was approved with corrections.

**Addresses from the Audience:**

No comments from the audience.

**Livable Communities Master Plan Update:**

Liz Cormack and Rhiannon Sinclair, consultants with Agency Landscape + Planning, reviewed the Livable Communities Master Plan progress with the Commission. Those involved with the plan development include the staff (core team), Steering Committee, the Parks & Recreation Commission, Citizen's Advisory Task Force, and the Clayton public.

Ms. Cormack stated that the plan will be used to allocate funding, prioritize capital investments, coordinate recommendations with the General Plan, and expand existing and create new partnerships. The consultant team is in phase three of four phases, #1 Start, #2 Understanding Clayton, #3 Creating the Vision, and #4 Delivering the Plan. Ms. Cormack reported that over 300 survey responses to the statistically valid survey were received. Tomorrow is the kickoff of the visioning workshop with the public at an Open House event at the Center of Clayton to discuss connectivity, programming and gaps, and high-quality spaces.

Ms. Sinclair reported that we are about five months into this process, which focused on data collection, and are now kicking off the visioning phase. Community engagement and the statistically valid survey are some of the many methods of data gathering used to develop a holistic view of the system. Ms. Sinclair stated that while they discovered that there are some gaps in the current level of service, those gaps are primarily in communities that have larger lot sizes where a lot of land is already provided for more private use. The data revealed that there are 32,181 people who work in Clayton and live elsewhere, 4,488 people who live in Clayton and work outside Clayton, and 650 who live and work in Clayton. This deliverable plan is focused on parks, recreation, and active transportation, but is also embodying the principles of sustainability through many of the projects, policies and plans that have already been in place. Data received that focuses on the recreation programming of various amenities found that 9,000 program enrollments were received from 2,500 people. The consultant team has been working with Toole Design group to better understand the transportation component of the plan - ADA process, quality of sidewalks and bike infrastructure, pathways, and where the challenging intersections or crossings are in the City. Ms. Sinclair shared three trends they discovered from the data received. #1. The community wants high quality connections between their homes and their destination by foot or by bike. #2. Data received from the statistically valid survey revealed that the community wants to see their Parks and Recreation agency take on more cultural amenities, more art classes, and more nature programming. #3. The community wants to see more investment in those spaces that are performing well and in new trails and new

facilities. However, most people prioritized maintenance of existing assets and park spaces over building new facilities. The consultants will draft a financial strategy to implement a plan that reflects the desires and values of the community. The consultants will share that vision to vet those recommendations in March and then deliver the plan in the summer.

**Director's Report:**

Toni Siering, Director of Parks, and Recreation, reported that a grant from the Municipal Park Grant Foundation had been received for \$525,000 for the fields 1 and 2 project. Ms. Siering will be meeting with the contractor this week to discuss the plan. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin in late to mid-summer of 2024 with an anticipated completion date of spring 2025.

Restroom renovations are wrapping up at the shelters in Shaw Park and restrooms at Oak Knoll Park. All updates will be completed for the spring parks season.

Requests for bids for two projects at #1 Oak Knoll Park (Clayton Early Childhood Center) will close on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Should the bids come in at or under budget, they will be presented to the Board of Alderman for approval in January 2024.

The gutters and expansion joints at Shaw Park pool and the HVAC for the lifeguard office and public spaces are also scheduled to be replaced this summer. Requests for bids for these projects are expected to be issued in January 2024.

Grant funding for energy efficient lighting in Oak Knoll and Shaw Park will be investigated for 2024-25. John Wulf, Public Work Assistant Director, secured grant funding through Ameren Biz Savers to install energy efficient lighting throughout the City. The Parks Department was able to replace 325 bulbs through this grant.

The Hanley Park fence was painted, and lighting issues were resolved.

Karen Herbig, Aquatics Supervisor has resigned, and her last day was December 1st.

Post Labor Day swimming and the lifeguard shortage will be discussed at the January meeting.

**Old Business / New Business:**

Ms. Siering reported that the lengthy utility issue that delayed the Maryland Park project has been resolved. Excavation will begin anytime and expected to be completed by spring.

Ms. Siering stated that the proposed new flagpole donation is not a current approved project for CCF, so it would need to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission, CCF, ARB and the Board of Aldermen.

Due to the holiday, the next PRC meeting will be January 8, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.  
Respectfully Submitted By: Doris Patzius



# Livable Community Master Plan

Clayton Departments of Parks  
and Recreation + Public Works



# Today's Agenda

## **No. 1**

The Livable Community  
Master Plan 101

## **No. 2**

System Snapshot

## **No. 3**

Overview of  
Emerging Trends





NO. 1

# The Livable Community Master Plan 101





# What will this plan accomplish?

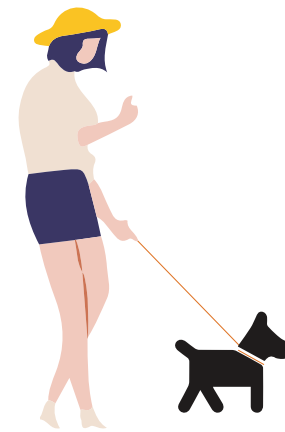
When the plan is complete, it will be used to...



Allocate funding



Prioritize capital investments

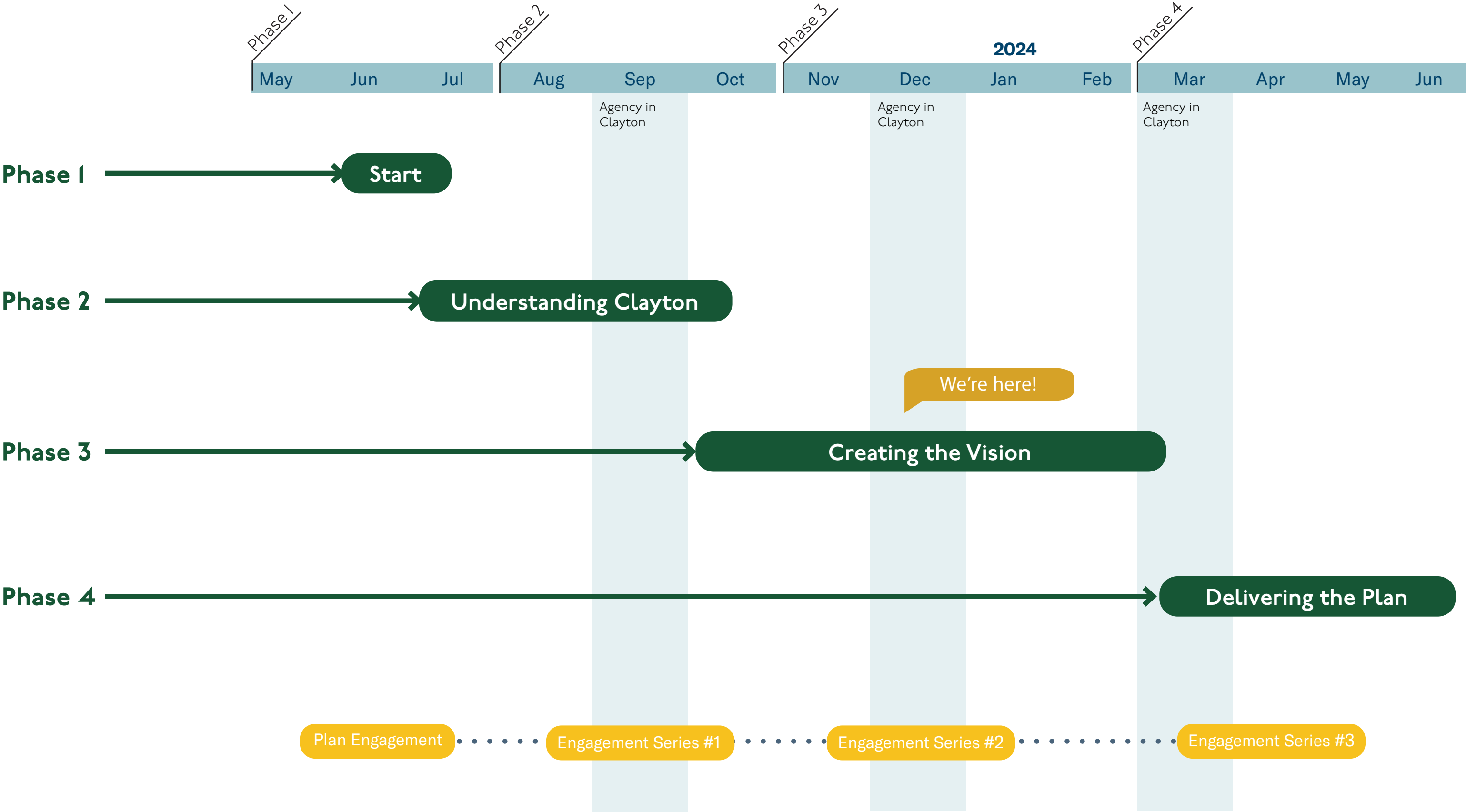


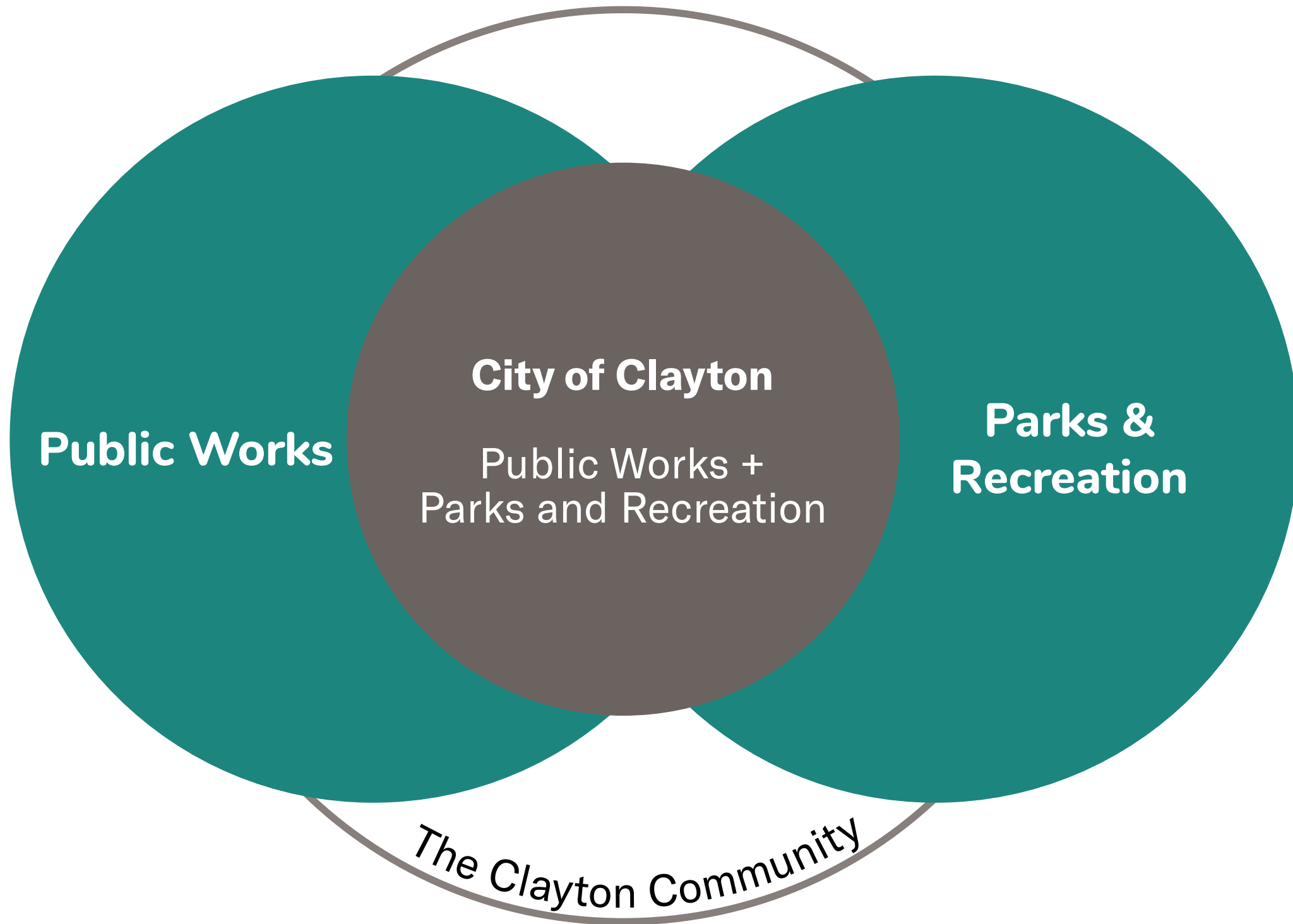
Coordinate recommendations with the General Plan



Expand existing and create new partnerships

# Schedule





**Public Works**

**City of Clayton**

Public Works +  
Parks and Recreation

**Parks &  
Recreation**

*The Clayton Community*

# Consultant Team

**Brie**  
Principal Planner



**Rhiannon**  
Principal Planner



**Liz**  
Associate Planner  
Project Manager



**Maria**  
Urban Planner



## Recreation Results

Recreation Programming

**Bobbi**  
President



**City of Clayton**  
Public Works +  
Parks and Recreation

Clayton Community

The Agency Design Team

## Agency Landscape + Planning

Prime, Landscape Architecture,  
Planning, Community Engagement

**Tammy**  
Senior Planner



## Toole Design

Transportation +  
Connectivity

**Sarah**  
Planner



**Fernando**  
Planner



## ETC Institute

Statistically Valid Survey

# Who's Involved?

Meeting Regularly

## Staff (Core Team)

Bi-weekly meetings with project management team from the Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments will inform our ongoing content development.

## Steering Committee

Made up of staff and key external stakeholders, this committee will take a leading role in implementation at the completion of the plan.

Variable Engagement

## Parks & Rec Commission

Sharing of the plan process and final draft plan.

## Citizen's Advisory Task Force

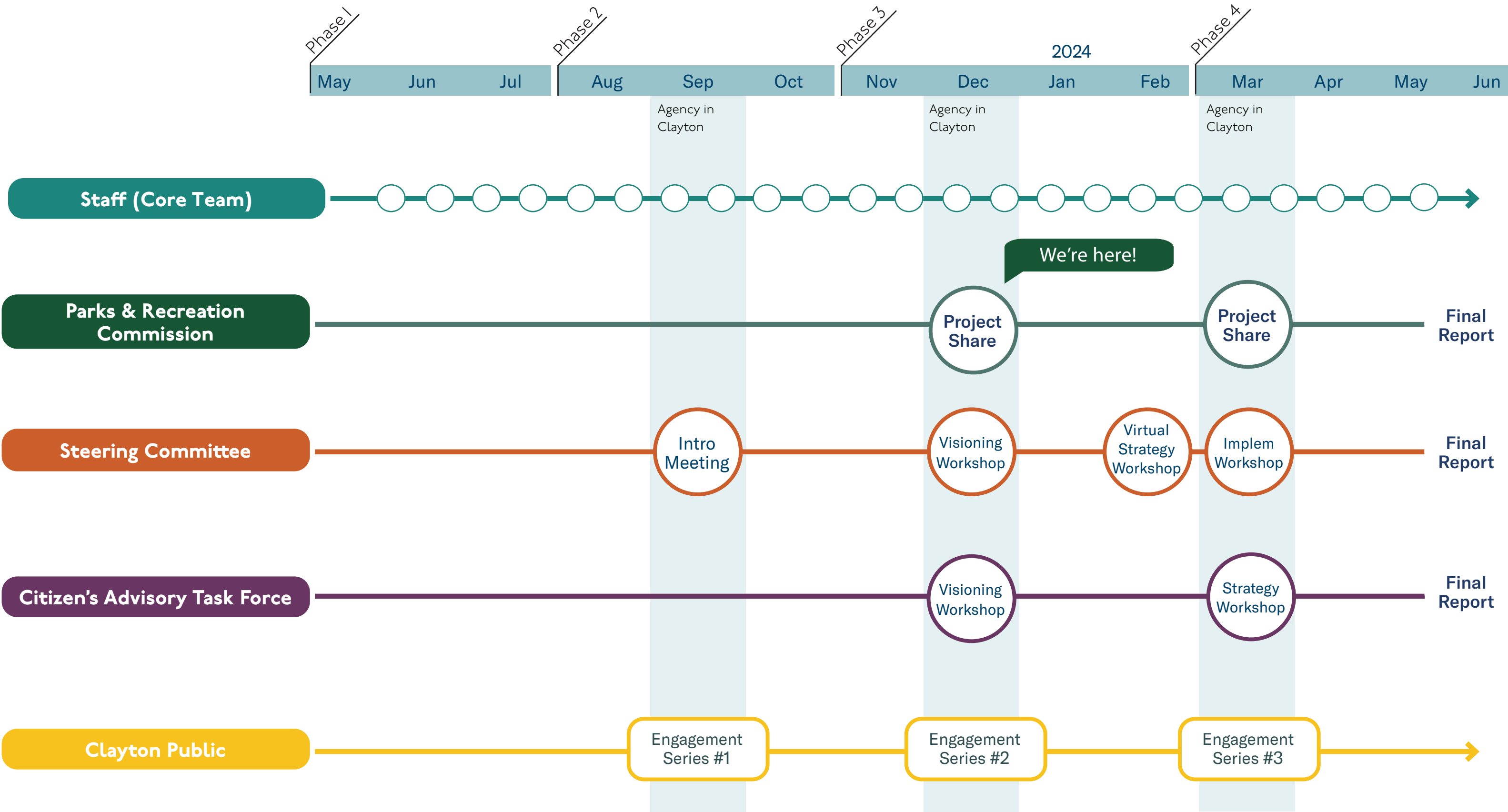
Made up of residents and representatives from partner institutions, this group will be a critical voice in ensuring the plan represents the needs of the community.

## Clayton Public

A core partner and stakeholder in the future of Clayton's parks are the people living and working in Clayton.



# Who's Involved When?





# Conversations to Date

Kicking off our visioning workshop, tomorrow!



50+ Conversations at Pop-Ups



309 Survey Responses



67 online comments



NO. 2

# System Snapshot





# A Beloved Hub for Recreation with a Long-Standing Commitment to Parks

Shaw Park



Dynamic Regional Park

Widely-Loved Rec Resources



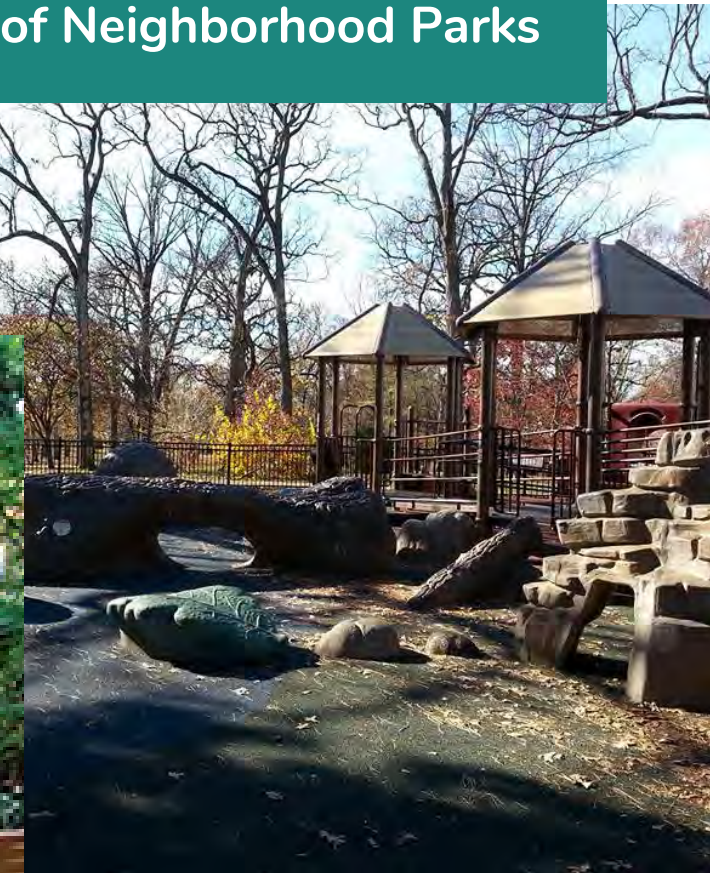
Clayton Aquatic Center

Henry Wright Park



Rich Garden City History

Mix of Neighborhood Parks

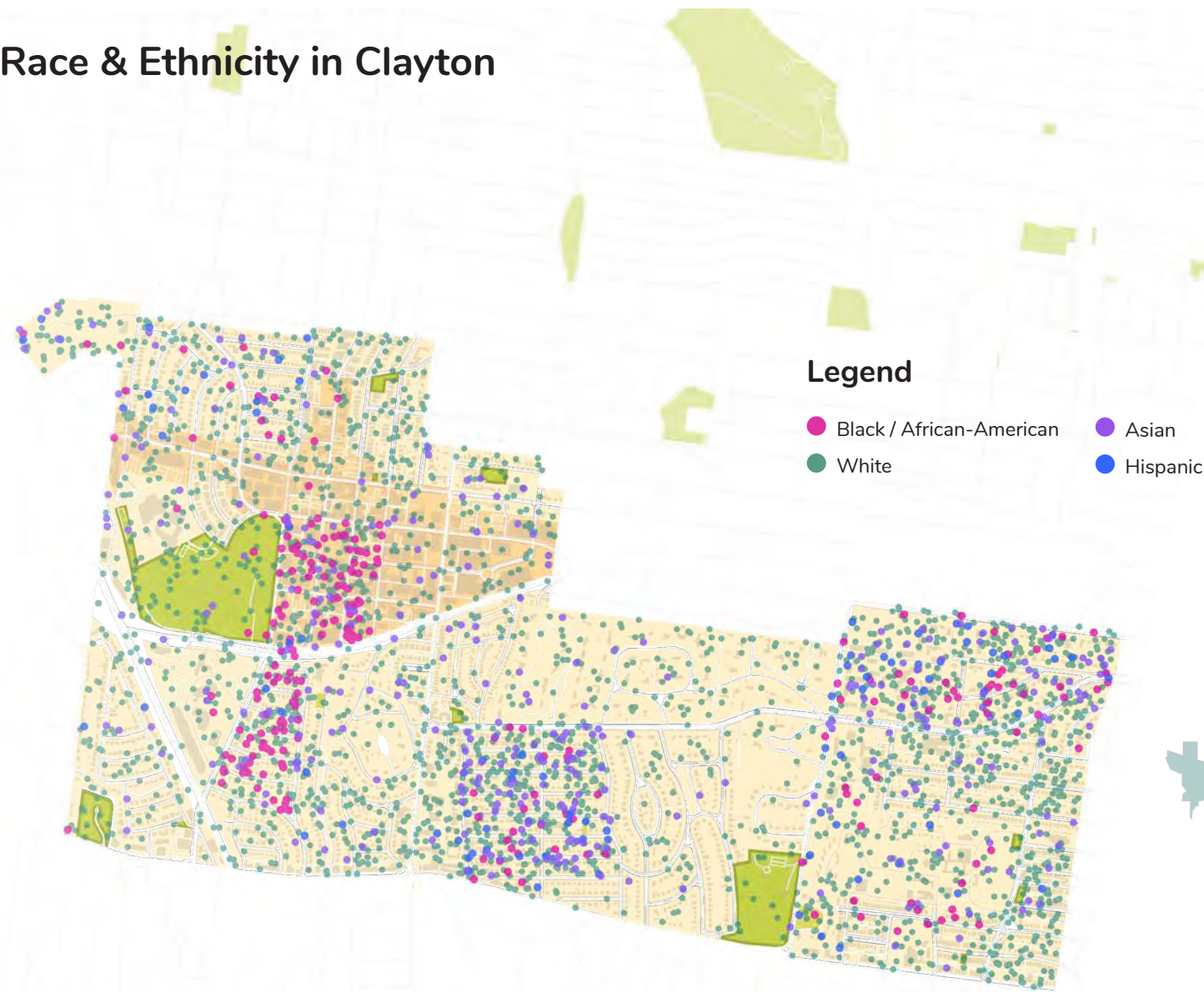


Oak Knoll Park

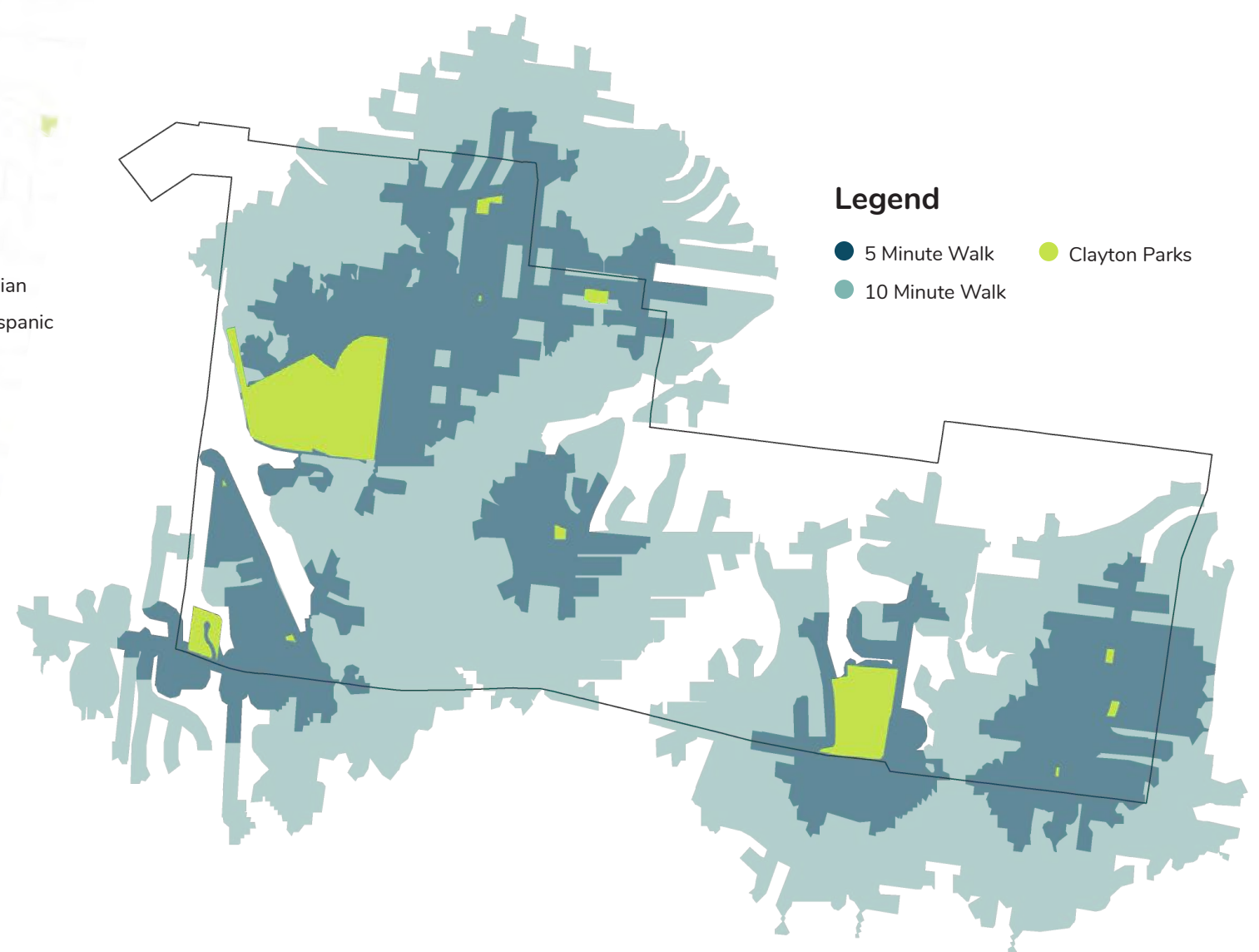


# Who will be served by this plan?

Race & Ethnicity in Clayton



Level of Service of Clayton's Parks



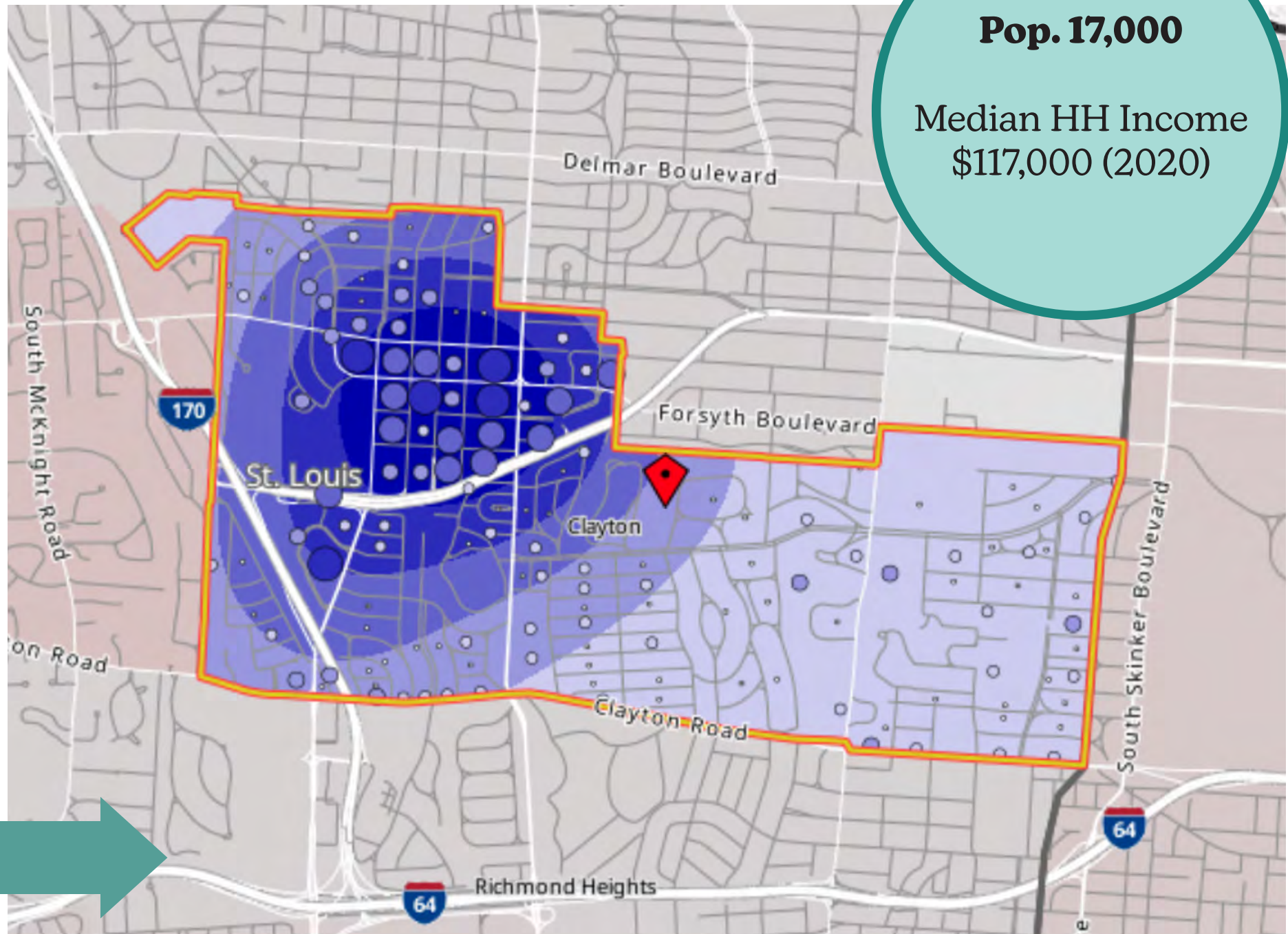


# Who will be served by this plan?

Twice as many people work in Clayton than live in Clayton!

Clayton's day-time population is larger than its resident population, with activity emanating out from Downtown.

**Pop. 17,000**  
Median HH Income \$117,000 (2020)



650 live and work in Clayton

32, 181 people work in Clayton and live elsewhere

4,488 live in Clayton and work outside of Clayton





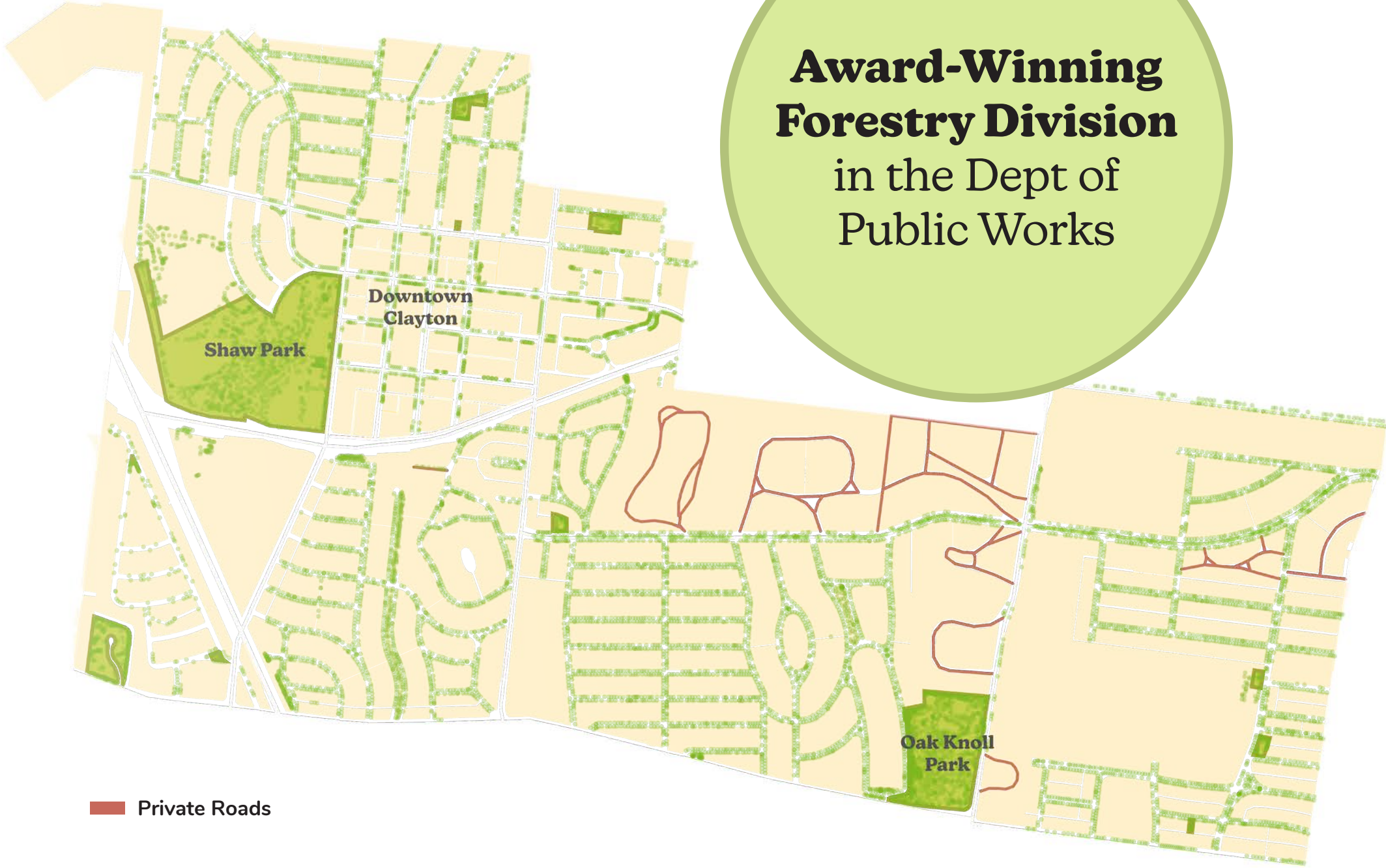
# Building on Clayton's Investment in Sustainability

Effective Tree Management Strategies

Substantial Portion of Privately-Owned Tree Canopy

High Car Dependency but Growing Investment in Active Transportation

**Award-Winning Forestry Division**  
in the Dept of Public Works





# The Clayton Parks & Recreation System



**12**

Parks



**5.6**

Miles of  
Walk Paths



**0.33**

Miles of  
Greenways



**7**

Playgrounds



**1**

Dog  
Park



**2.5**

Miles of  
Bike Lanes



**7**

Sport  
Fields



**13**

Sport  
Courts



**1**

Recreation  
Center



**1**

Splash  
Pad



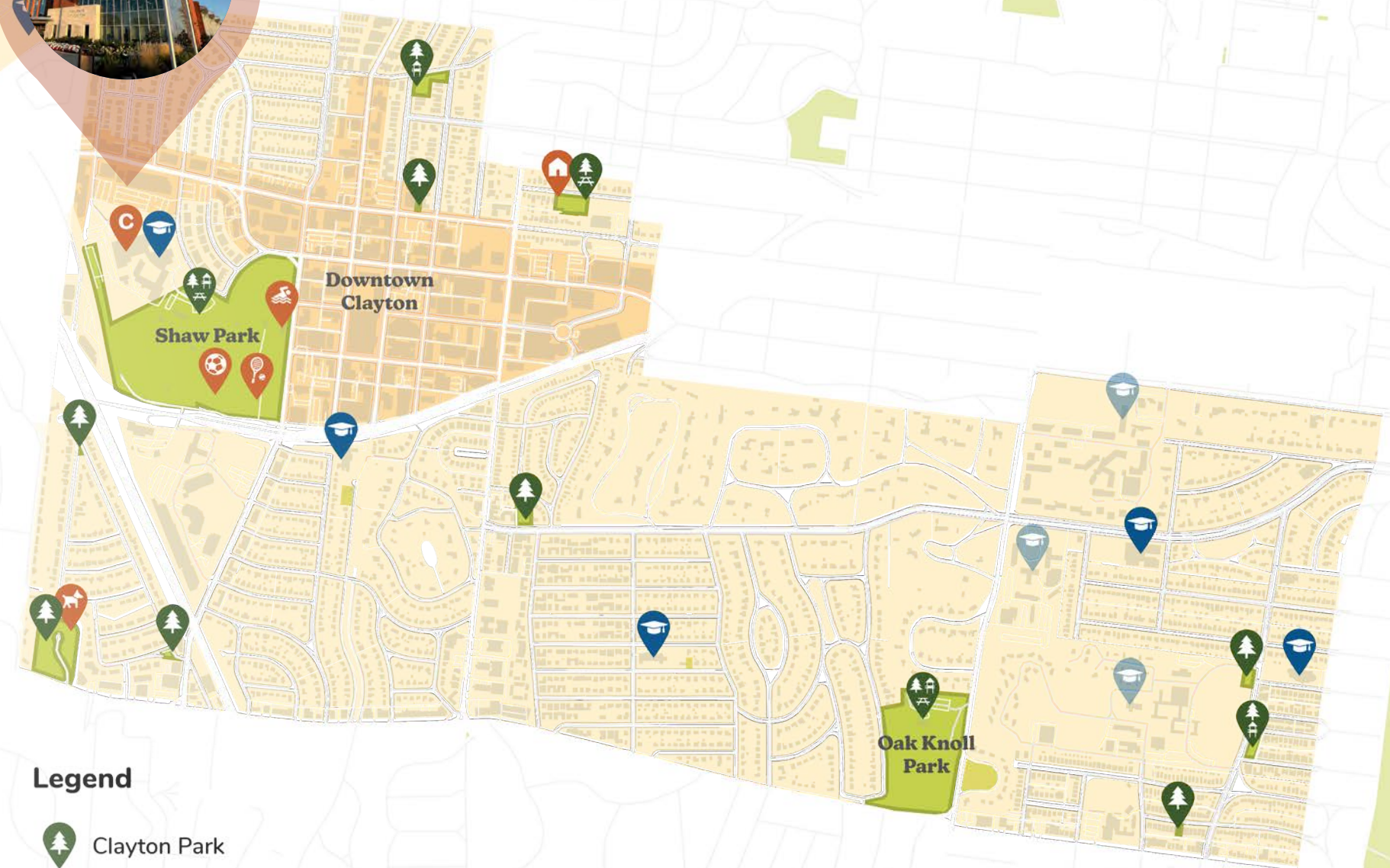
**2**

Indoor  
Pools



**3**

Outdoor  
Pools



## Legend

-  Clayton Park
-  Clayton Recreation Facility
-  Clayton Public School
-  Private Educational Institution



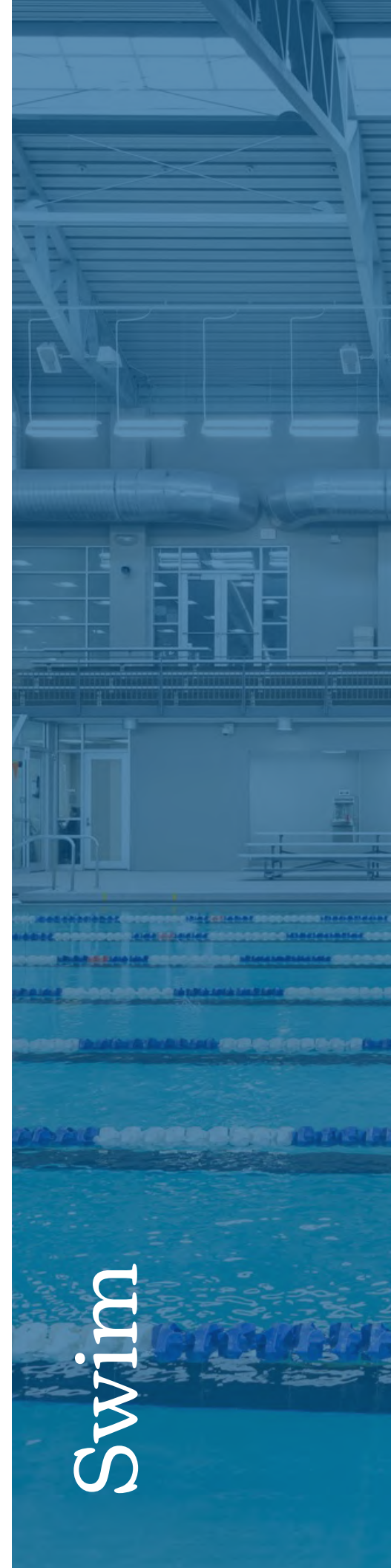
# Recreation Programs

ANALYSIS BASED ON SALES DATA

In 2022, Clayton had **8,968 program** enrollments from **2,454 people**.

In 2022, **non-residents made up 81% of program enrollments** (versus 19% from Clayton residents).

Youth enrollment, peaking at ages 7-9, is slightly higher than adult enrollment.



Swim



Fitness



Youth Programs

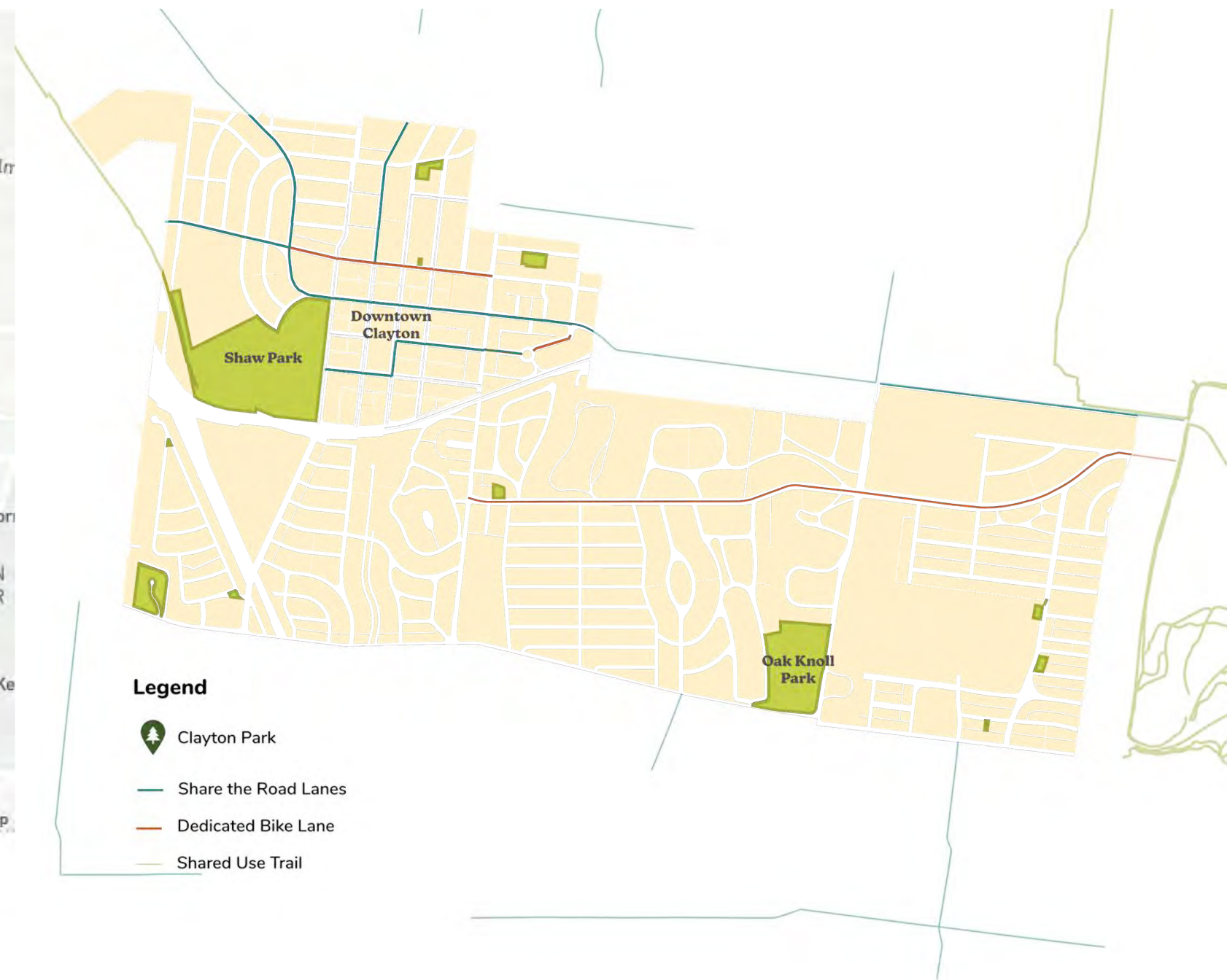


# Connectivity in Clayton

## SIDEWALKS



## BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE





# Safety and Connectivity Needs

Linear Facilities

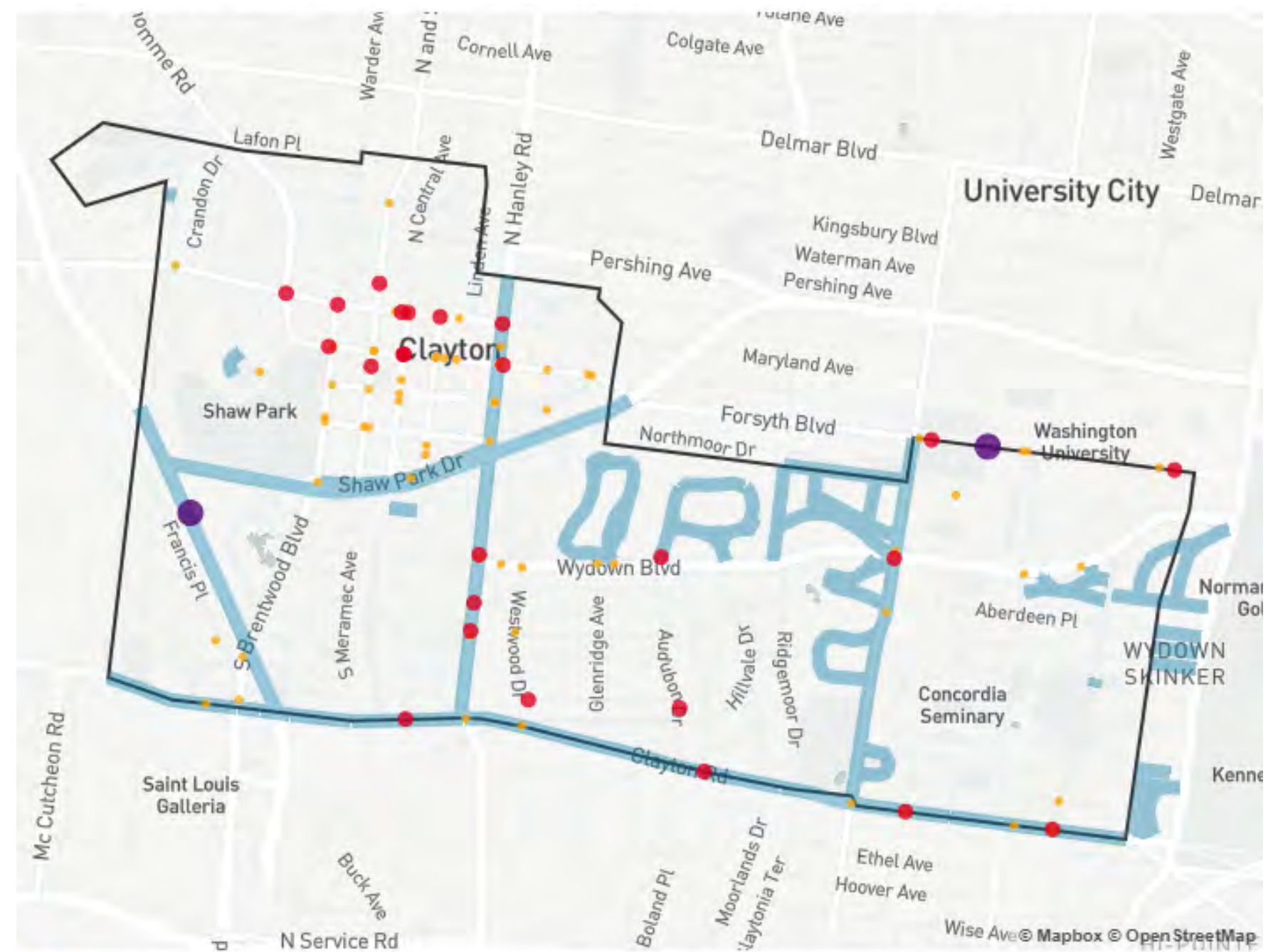
Access to Destinations

Intersections and Midblock Crossing Improvements



Check out the WikiMap on EngageClayton.com!

## BICYCLE OR PEDESTRIAN INJURY OR FATALITIES 2021-2023



- Fatal Crashes
- Incapacitating Injury Crashes
- Minor Injury Crashes
- Not owned by Clayton
- Clayton, MO



# Celebrating Clayton's Recent Investments

## Chapman Plaza



a new gateway to Shaw Park

ongoing maintenance like resurfacing and splash pads



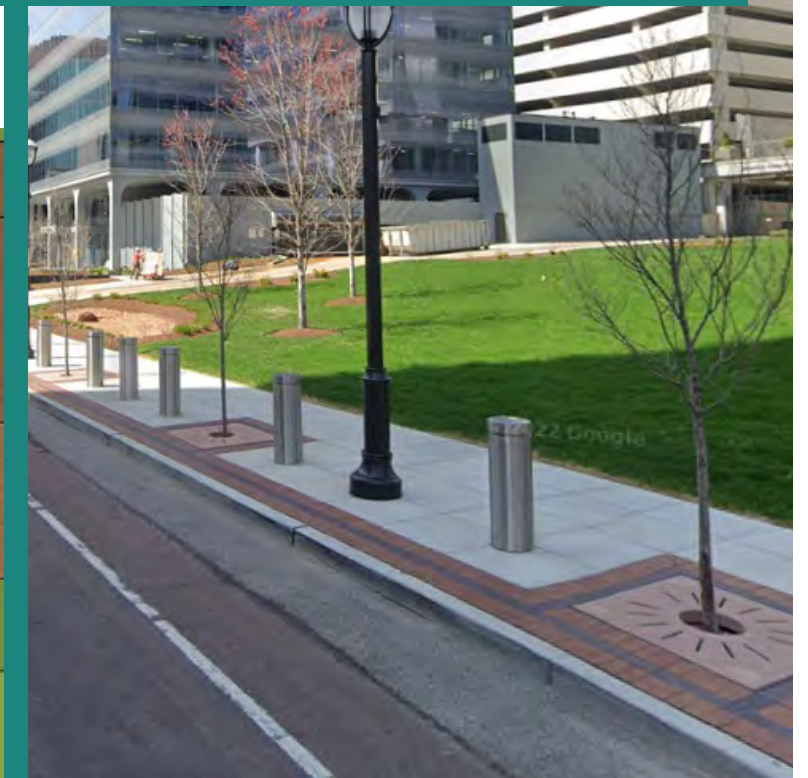
Amenity Upgrades

## Future Maryland Ave Park



reviving history in the Clayton landscape

increasing investment in active transportation



Complete Streets Ordinance



NO. 3

# Overview of Emerging Findings





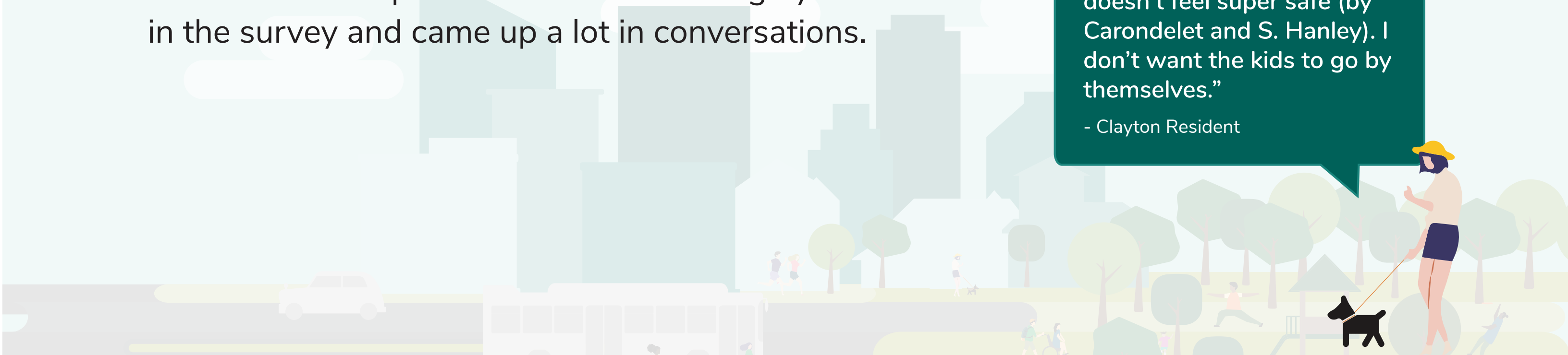
*Trend #1*

# The community wants better connections to parks and schools on foot and by bike.

Better walking infrastructure, safer connections, and better access to parks and schools are highly ranked in the survey and came up a lot in conversations.

“I would rather walk, but crossing S. Hanley Rd doesn't feel super safe (by Carondelet and S. Hanley). I don't want the kids to go by themselves.”

- Clayton Resident



*Trend #2*

# Clayton has a highly successful portfolio of recreation programs, but there are gaps.

The statistically valid survey indicates a desire for more diverse non-fitness programming, including culture, arts, and nature programming.

## **Top Priorities for Recreation Programming**

*2023 Statistically Valid Survey*

1. Cultural Special Events
2. Nature Programs / Education
3. Adult Continuing Education

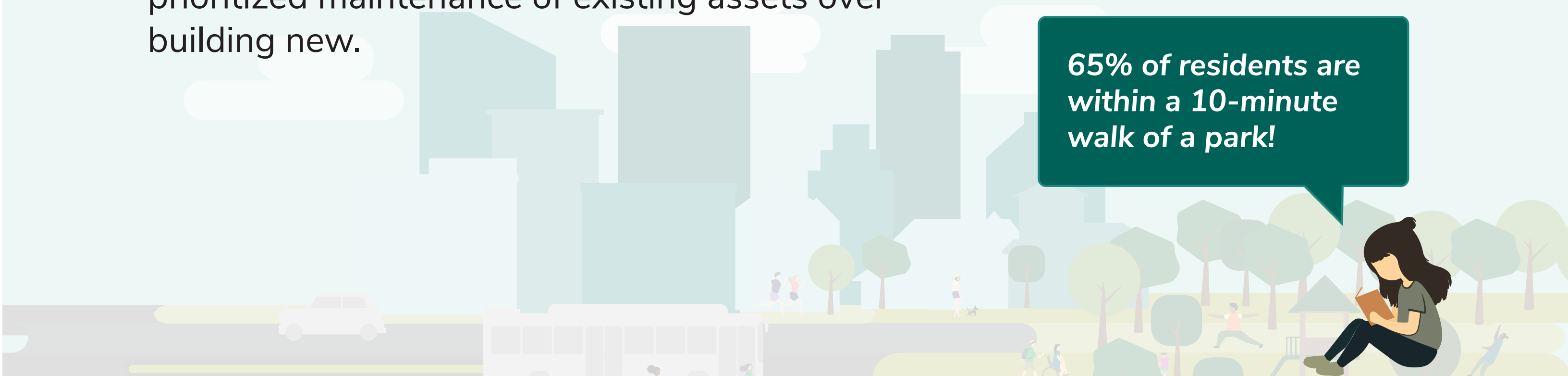


*Trend #3*

# Clayton parks perform well overall today.

The statistically valid survey indicates an interest in more trails and in new facilities. However, when asked how to allocate funding, the majority prioritized maintenance of existing assets over building new.

**65% of residents are within a 10-minute walk of a park!**





# What's Next?

Before our March milestone...



Develop System-Wide Ideas and Concepts



Develop Draft Recommendations

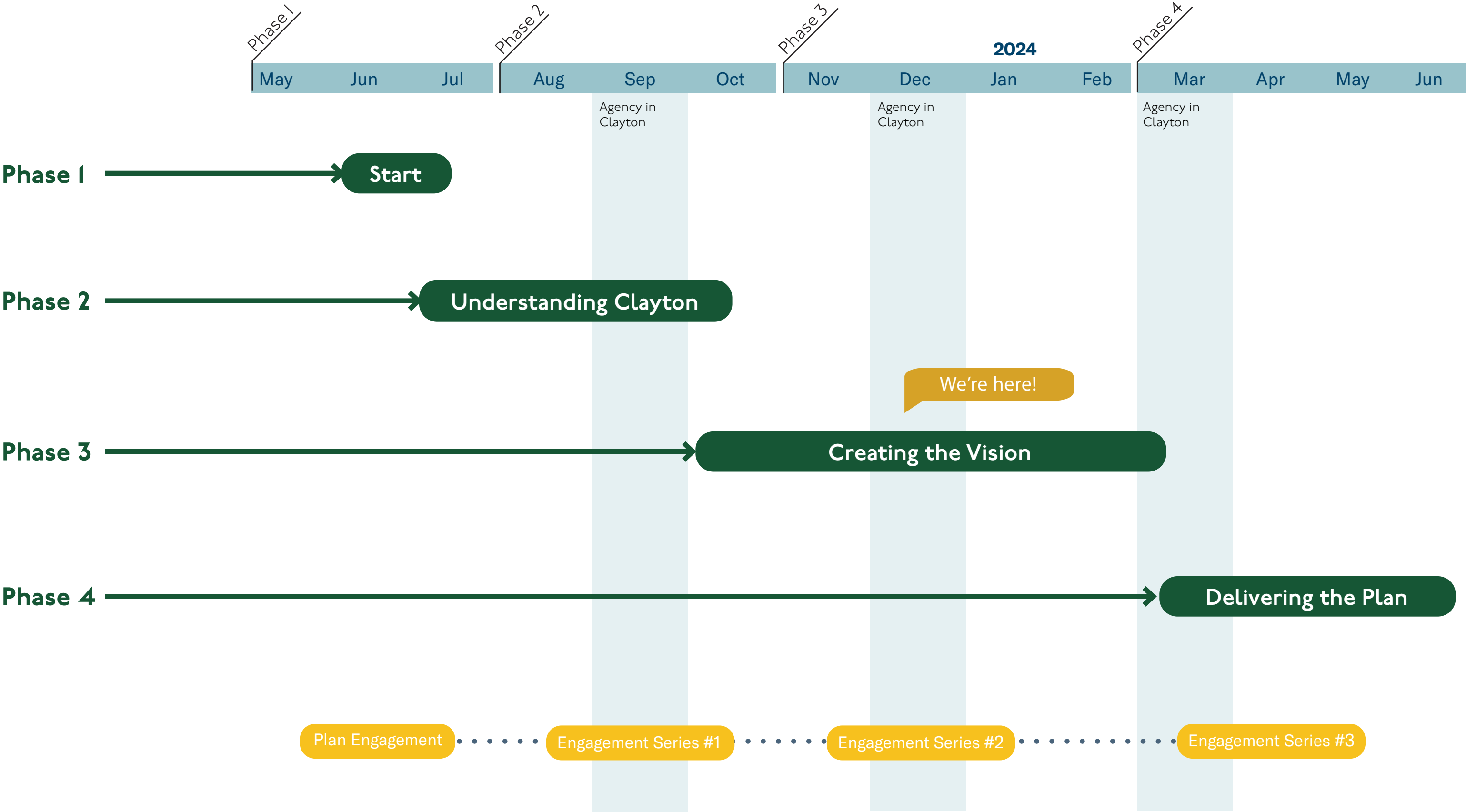


Create Draft Financial Strategy Plan



Prepare for Final Public Open House

# Schedule



Let's work together...

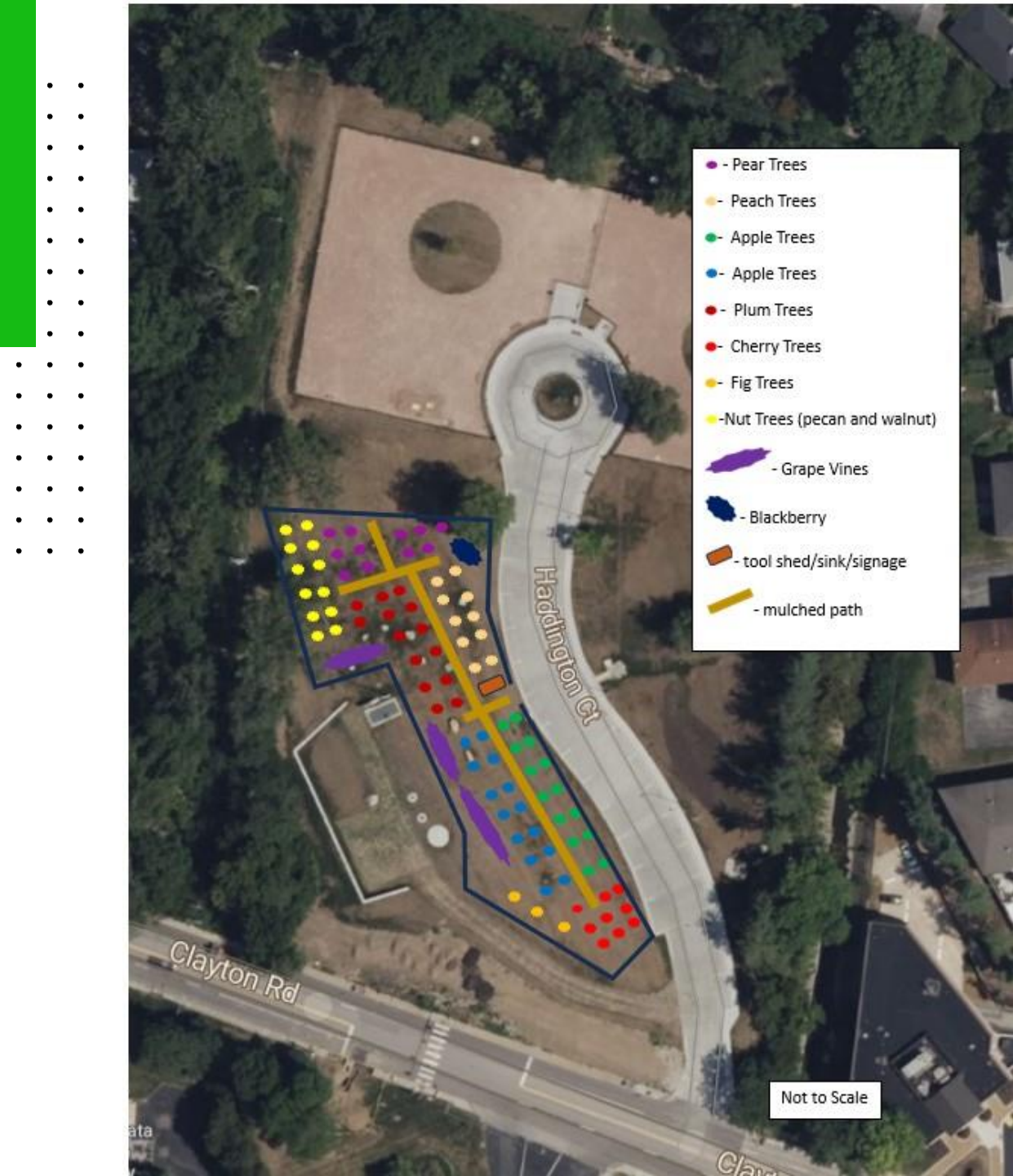
...to creating a vision for a livable community.



COMMUNITY  
FRUIT  
ORCHARD

**ANDERSON PARK**





# PROPOSED LOCATION WITHIN ANDERSON PARK

**~ 3 / 4 ACRE USABLE SPACE**

**POTENTIAL FOR UPWARDS  
OF 200 INDIVIDUAL TREES**



# SITE REMEDIATION



Radishes grow in the shadow of Eero Saarinen's Gateway Arch in St. Louis. *Image courtesy of MVVA.*

# INITIAL COST INVESTMENT



Utilize Tree planting budget

| <u>Year 1</u> | <u>Year 2</u> | <u>Year 3</u> |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 12 Trees      | 12 Trees      |               |
| Cover Crops   | Cover Crops   | 18 Trees      |
| 6 grape vines | 6 shrubs      |               |
| \$800         | \$800         | \$900         |

Additional supplies-  
tree wrap, fertilizer, temporary fencing ~\$300/year  
Split Rail Fence around perimeter- \$4,000



# LABOR IMPACT

- Initial Set-up
  - 5 Day site prep and installation
- Maintenance
  - 2 days Spring mulching and cleanup (Volunteer Day?)
  - 3 hours/week during growing season
  - 2 Days Fall cleanup and prep for winter (Volunteer Day?)







# POLLINATORS?

## "HOST A BEEHIVE"

- \$650/year
- [www.beefound.org/hostahive](http://www.beefound.org/hostahive)
- Ordinance?



DATE: January 8, 2024

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Toni Siering, Director of Parks & Recreation

CC: Lori Rice, Recreation Superintendent

RE: Post-Labor Day Swimming at Shaw Park Aquatic Center

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As you know, the topic of post-season lap swimming at Shaw Park Aquatic Center (SPAC) has been a focal point of conversations since the fall of 2022, when the facility closed on Labor Day due to the demolition of the Shaw Park Ice Rink. Due to the on-going, nationwide lifeguard shortage, SPAC closed for the 2023 season on Labor Day.

The attached memo from former Aquatics Supervisor Karen Herbig outlines the status of lifeguards employed at the end of the 2023 SPAC season. As you may recall, no decision regarding post-Labor Day swimming was made at our November Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. While the recommendation was made to consider post-Labor Day swimming in 2024 if staffing permitted, I believe this was premature and would suggest revisiting that proposal based on the following:

- As the attached memo and end of season presentation indicated, lifeguard staffing levels for the 2023 SPAC season were still less than desired throughout the summer. As we have mentioned before, a “fully staffed” season in Clayton would have 100-125 lifeguards on payroll to cover shifts at SPAC and the Center of Clayton; the 2023 summer season averaged 88 employees during the summer season. In particular, for the final two weeks of the SPAC season, a total of 54 lifeguards were on staff to cover over 1,658 open pool hours. Approximately 30% of these lifeguards were non-Clayton employees who are not interested in working for an extended season. We are pleased with the increased lifeguard staffing levels compared to the 2022 season but would need to see improvement prior to considering additional hours past Labor Day at SPAC in the future.
- Despite their best efforts, Midwest Pool Management has struggled to find a permanent, full-time Pool Manager for the City of Clayton pools for several years. SPAC has not had a full-time Pool Manager in place over the last three summer seasons. As the nationwide aquatics staffing shortage continues, it is clearly not only affecting front-line, part-time lifeguard availability, but also full-time aquatic careers.
- As was noted at our December Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the position of Aquatics Supervisor in the City of Clayton is currently vacant. While the hiring process is continuing, it is unlikely that this position will be filled until mid-to-late February at the earliest.

**Recommendation**

Shaw Park Aquatic Center would close for the season on Labor Day 2024. Staffing levels can be reviewed post season to determine the potential availability for post-Labor Day swimming, followed by an evaluation of expenses and proposed fee schedule associated with extended season hours for FY25 (or for future seasons).





DATE: November 6, 2023

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Herbig, Aquatic Supervisor

CC: Toni Siering, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Lori Rice, Recreation Superintendent

RE: Post-Labor Day Swimming at Shaw Park Aquatic Center

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The topic of post-season lap swimming at Shaw Park Aquatic Center (SPAC) has been a focal point of conversations since the fall of 2022, when the facility closed on Labor Day due to the demolition of the Shaw Park Ice Rink. As you may know, due to the on-going, nationwide lifeguard shortage, SPAC closed for the 2023 season on Labor Day.

The main priority is always to ensure a safe aquatic facility for our residents, members, and guests and this can happen only with an adequate number of lifeguards. Midwest Pool Management (MPM) did have an increased number of staff at Clayton in 2023 compared to the 2022 season, which appears to be primarily contributed to the salary increases. However, as anticipated, staffing levels were still less than desired, and Clayton did experience a significant reduction of staff in August. Because other area pools close during the week and/or earlier in August, MPM has staff throughout the region that can be deployed to Clayton pools in August, making it possible for SPAC to remain open for seven days per week for lap swimming and five days per week for recreation swim through Labor Day. For the final two weeks of the SPAC season, a total of 54 lifeguards were on staff to cover over 1658 open pool hours (including hours at the Center of Clayton). This breaks down to just over 30 weekly hours per employee; as not all employees work that many hours, the burden is placed on those staff who are able/willing to work more (in some cases well over 40 hours per week).

The second item of consideration when discussing post-season hours remains the cost to keep Shaw Park Aquatic Center open past Labor Day. Operational costs continue to increase across the board – including salaries, utilities, supplies and contractual services. Contrary to the end of season survey from 2022 and in conversations with residents this year, approximately 50% of SPAC passholders are now interested in paying a post-season fee for an additional two week maximum of lap and recreational swimming hours after Labor Day based on a reduced schedule. This is a change from years past, when only post-season lap swimming was offered, based on feedback from families interested in post-season recreation swimming. Additionally, by offering both lap and recreation swim post-season opportunities, the additional cost may be more palatable for those interested.

Finally, it is important to note that any extension of the swimming season at Shaw Park Aquatic Center impacts the Center of Clayton financially. There are patrons who stop their membership at the Center

during the SPAC season and wait until the outdoor pool closes to return. As the Center is a jointly owned facility with the School District of Clayton, this decision does not only impact the City of Clayton.

**Recommendation**

Because there is no way of knowing if enough lifeguards will be on staff to accommodate an extended season at this time, staff would be comfortable deciding whether to offer post-season swimming at Shaw Park Aquatic Center at the end of June 2024. This would allow time to gauge staffing levels to ensure safe operations throughout the remainder of the outdoor pool season. Should post-season swimming (a maximum of two weeks) be offered when staffing levels allow, extended season memberships would go on sale in early July and would need to be purchased by early August. The operational expenses would be evaluated and fees set accordingly; fees would be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval in January. Enough post-season memberships would need to be purchased to cover this expense in full. If not, the post-season would be cancelled, and all payments refunded.



# Shaw Park Aquatic Center

## Combating the Ongoing Lifeguard Shortage

- ▶ Starting pay increased to \$15.00/hour
- ▶ The End of Season hours at SPAC will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August and run through Labor Day. This includes regular lap swimming hours throughout the week, Rec Swim in the evenings on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, weekends and holidays. Weekend and Holiday hours end at 6pm.
- ▶ Center schedule would resume school hours the first week of August when sports start and one week of cleaning will be scheduled for each pool.
- ▶ MPM is offering regular lifeguard classes during the off season, with at least one per month at the Center. Last year's pre-season classes at SPAC went well and are planning this again for the 2024 season.
- ▶ MPM is visiting high schools throughout the area regularly to recruit staff.

# Lifeguard Hours from this season

| Dates  | # of Guards worked (both pools) | # of Hours to Cover (both pools) | Break down of hours per part-time employee |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| April 6 <sup>th</sup> – April 19 <sup>th</sup>       | 30                              | 832.49                           | 27.75                                      |
| May 4 <sup>th</sup> - May 17 <sup>th</sup>           | 34                              | 916.34                           | 26.95                                      |
| May 18 <sup>th</sup> - May 31 <sup>st</sup>          | 80                              | 1949.55                          | 24.37                                      |
| June 1 <sup>st</sup> - June 14 <sup>th</sup>         | 89                              | 3344.15                          | 37.57                                      |
| June 15 <sup>th</sup> - June 28 <sup>th</sup>        | 101                             | 3096.01                          | 30.65                                      |
| June 29 <sup>th</sup> - July 12 <sup>th</sup>        | 105                             | 3482.08                          | 33.16                                      |
| July 13 <sup>th</sup> - July 26 <sup>th</sup>        | 96                              | 3421.99                          | 35.65                                      |
| July 27 <sup>th</sup> - Aug 9 <sup>th</sup>          | 100                             | 3357.24                          | 33.57                                      |
| Aug 10 <sup>th</sup> - Aug 23 <sup>rd</sup>          | 84                              | 2132.27                          | 25.38                                      |
| Aug 24 <sup>th</sup> - Sept 6 <sup>th</sup>          | 54 *(30%=Non-Clayton staff)     | 1658.35                          | 30.71                                      |
| September 21 <sup>st</sup> – October 5 <sup>th</sup> | 43                              | 466.85                           | 10.86                                      |