

Adopted by the City of Cordova Planning Commission on February 20, 2024

The Cordova Comprehensive Plan

Appendix B: Public Involvement Summary

2024



This project was supported by funding from the Applachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the ARC or the RPCGB.

The contents of this Comprehensive Plan reflects the City of Cordova's community values. The Plan serves as a guide to interpreting citizen values into future land use decisions, capital investments and public policies. As such, this Comprehensive Plan is not legally binding upon the City of Cordova.

Adopted by the Cordova Panning Commission on February 20, 2024. Endorsed by the Cordova City Council on Month Date, 2024



CONTENTS

Public Outreach Overview	
Summary of the Public Involvement Process	
Results & Findings 10)
Results of the Public Outreach Methods12	

TABLES

Table 2.1: Public Outreach Participation Numbers	12
Table 2.2: Resident's Priority for Each Plan Recommendation	72

Public Outreach Overview

QUALITYOFLIFE

VIDILITIAN EMODONILITIAN

Y DEVELOPMEN

WHAT'S WORKING? WHAT'S NOT WORKING? WHAT'S NEEDED!

COMMUNIT

ELEMENTS

Housing

Public Outreach Methods7

Residents provide input at the September 26th public meeting | Source: RPCGB

Tick

20

aun pup pa

What new type

(Diversity¹⁰

Code Er Resider

(Are)

but



I have loved the addition of the mobile app. It helps me be more informed about what events are happening and general news.

- Cordova Resident

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Effective outreach provides ample opportunity for residents to be involved in the plan development process. It educates residents about the purpose of the planning effort, and the important role they play in developing the plan. As a part of the development of the Cordova Comprehensive Plan, community stakeholders were engaged in several different ways throughout the planning process. They were encouraged to actively voice their opinions about Cordova's future.

Cordova residents were engaged and gave input through the following public outreach methods:

- 1. Project Website
- 2. Visioning Survey
- 3. Stakeholder Questionaires
- 4. Kick-off Open House
- 5. Draft Plan Reveal Open House and Public Comment Period

6

PUBLIC OUTREACH METHODS

PROJECT WEBSITE

A formal website for the project was updated throughout the life of the project. This website, wwww. PlanCordova.com, served as an information gateway for the plan, and provided easy access for the public to take the survey as well as view plan documents, public input results, and other related information.

VISIONING SURVEY

This multiple-choice and open-ended question survey was available via a link on the project website and was also provided in hard copy form via a mailout from the City to its residents. The Visioning Survey was open for answers from July 11, 2023 to October 31, 2023 and included a series of questions that were intended to illustrate the City's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, as well as residents' perceived issues and desires. Hard copies of the survey were made available at the at City Hall, at community events and at the Kickoff Open House. In total, 146 survey responses were received. See pages 15 to 31 for the detailed results of the Visioning Survey.

STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONAIRES

During the development of the Plan, the project team sent questionnaires to the following individuals:

- Mayor
- City Clerk
- City Councilors
- City of Cordova department heads
- Planning Commission members

- Zoning Board of Adjustments members
- CEIDA
- Developers
- Events Committee
- Outdoor Recreation Commission

The answers from the questionnaires helped the RPCGB planning team better understand baseline conditions as well as key community initiatives, needs, and priorities.



Source: RPCGB



Source: RPCGB



Source: RPCGB

KICKOFF OPEN HOUSE

The Kickoff Open House was held on September 26, 2023 at Cordova City Hall from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, and a total of 31 people attended. The purpose of the Kickoff Open House was to gather feedback regarding the state of the City today and resident's issues and desires regarding economic development, quality of life, community development, infrastructure and planning and public services. Participants were encouraged to provide feedback to the planning team through the following interactive activities:

- Visioning Survey
- Issues and Opportunities Matrix See pages 34 to 36 to view the input results.
- Trail Priority Activity
- Mapping Exercise

DRAFT PLAN REVEAL OPEN HOUSE & PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD--

On January 22, 2024, an Open House took place at Cordova City Hall from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. During the event, the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Cordova (RPCGB) provided a comprehensive overview of the Plan. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, review key recommendations from each chapter of the plan, and offer feedback after the presentation. Additionally, a formal public comment period was open from January 22 to February 13, 2024, to gather comments following the open house. A total of 18 individuals attended the event.



Residents learn more about the Comprehensive Plan at the September 26th public meeting | Source: RPCGB



Residents provide input at the September 26th public meeting | Source: RPCGB



Residents listen to a message from Mayor Pate at the January 22nd public meeting | Source: RPCGB



Residents provide input at the January 22nd public meeting | Source: RPCGB

9

Residents provide input at the September 26th public meeting | Source: RPCGB

Water Board

Hall

Results & Findings

Residents provide input at the January 22nd public meeting | Source: RPCGB

-

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC OUTREACH METHODS

Table 2.1: Public Outreach Participation Numbers

Face-to-Face Meetings	Date	# of Participants
Kickoff Open House	9/26/2023	31
Draft Plan Reveal Open House	1/22/2024	18
Draft Plan Public Comment Period	1/22/2024 - 2/13/2024	1
Visioning Survey		
Visioning Survey – hard copy and online versions	7/11/2023 – 10/31/2023	146
Web Content		
Plan Cordova Website -Unique Visitors	As of 12/19/2023	418

WEBSITE

During the development of the project, the <u>www.PlanCordova.com</u> website was visited by 418 unique visitors.

VISIONING SURVEYAND KICK-OFF OPEN HOUSE RESULTS

The following presentation summarizes the results from the first phase of public input.





Public Involvement Participation

Visioning Survey

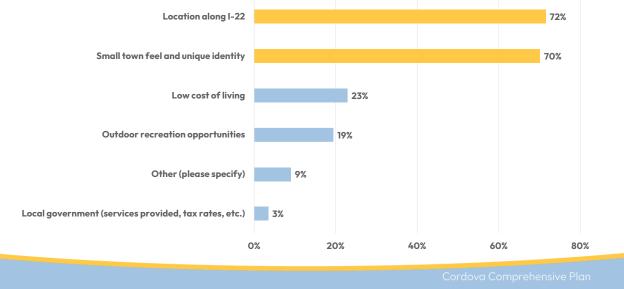
- Open from to July 11 through October 31 September 26, 2023
- Online and hard copies
- 146 respondents

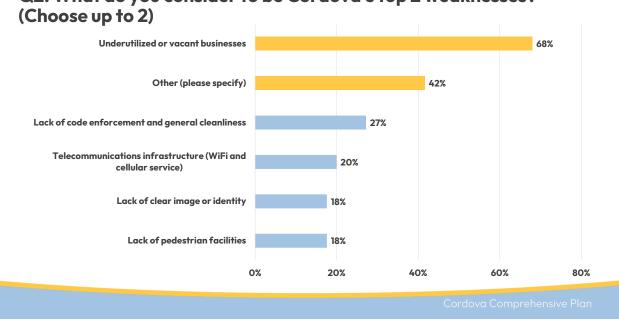
Kickoff Open House

- 31 attendees



Q1: What do you consider to be Cordova's top 2 strengths? (Choose up to 2)





Q2: What do you consider to be Cordova's top 2 weaknesses?

Q2: What do you consider to be Cordova's top 2 weaknesses?

"Other" responses included:

- Lack of businesses
- Lack of housing choices
- Road conditions
- Not annexing to I-22

Q3: How should Cordova address these issues?

- Code enforcement
 - Condemn/demolish dilapidated structures
- Attract new businesses
 - Frequent mentions of I-22 here
- Downtown redevelopment
- Annexation
 - Some mentions of I-22 here
- Build new homes

Cordova Comprehensive Plan

Q4: Where do you think future development should be directed in Cordova?

- Toward I-22 (both exits)
- Downtown / Main Street / business district
- Around the river
- Longview area
- Indian Head property

Q5: What areas in Cordova should be protected from development?

- Around waterways / natural resources
- Historic properties
- Residential areas

Q6: Based on your experience, what is working well or not working well regarding the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations? What needs to change?

- Code enforcement / lack of enforcement
- Manufactured homes (both for and against, discussion of sizes)
- Tiny homes (for)

Q7: What types of businesses and/or additional services and amenities do you think are needed in Cordova?

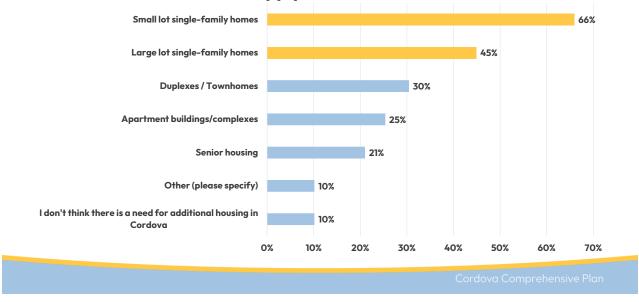
- Restaurants
- Pharmacy
- Small business retail, e.g., hardware store, boutique
- Personal service, e.g., salon
- Social services, e.g., substance counseling, job training, tutoring
- Library

Cordova Comprehensive Plan

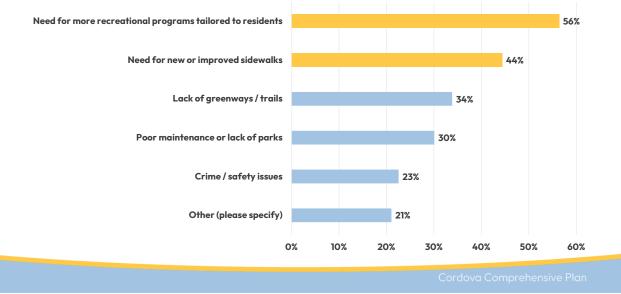
Q8: The Comprehensive Plan will include catalytic project ideas for the downtown area of Cordova. What ideas do you have for the future development and redevelopment of the downtown area?

- Beautification, e.g., plantings and street furniture (lamp posts)
- Walkability
- Entertainment and shopping
 - Family friendly options
- Housing, including apartments
- Focus on I-22 exits

Q9: Which of the following housing types are most needed in Cordova? (Choose all that apply)



Q10: What do you feel are the biggest barriers to recreational opportunities in Cordova? (Choose all that apply)



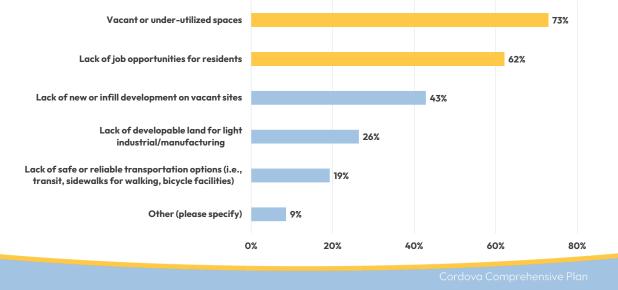
Q11: Are there any specific improvements or changes you would like to see at cityowned parks? Please be specific and reference the park name you have an idea for.

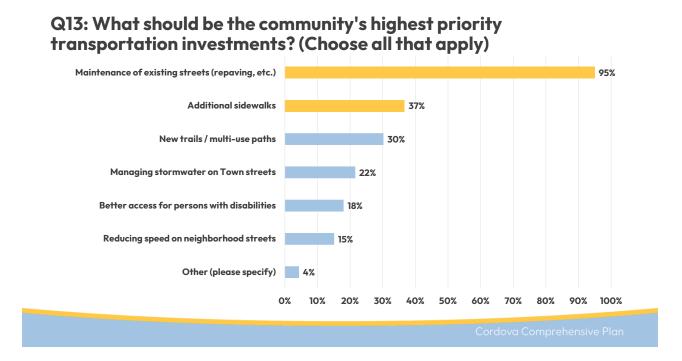
- General maintenance at all parks
- Shade at all parks
- Desire for splash pad
- Accessibility
- Indian Head Mill Park:
 - Upgrade restrooms and walking track
 - Expand lighting and concession stand

- Reservoir Park:
 - Seating and lights needed
- Blueway:
 - Better advertising and more events

Cordova Comprehensive Plan

Q12: What do you feel are the biggest challenges to economic development in Cordova? (Choose top 2)



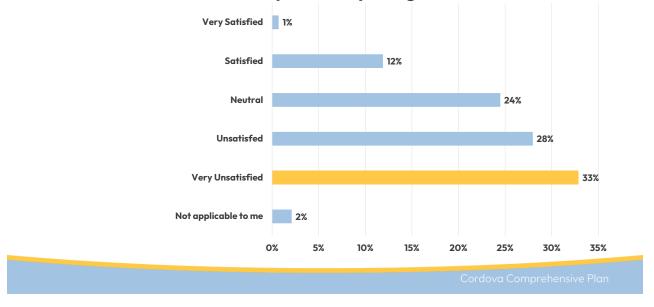


Q14: Which roads in Cordova, if any, need repairs and/or upgrades? Please be specific on the type of repair needed.

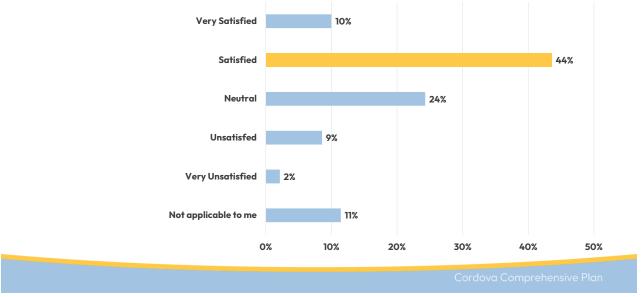
- Roads around schools and senior apartments
- Green Ave
- Moseley St / Brewer St
- Highland St
- Hill St
- Stewart St

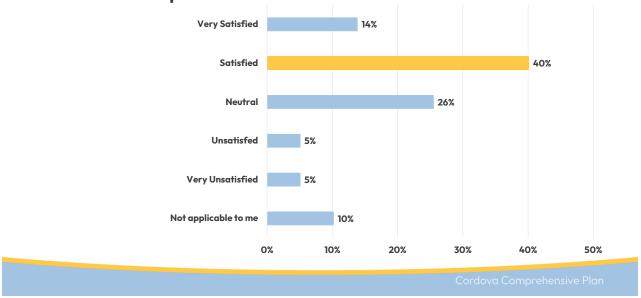
- Massachusetts Ave / Gardners Gin Rd
- McCrory St
- Walker County roads:
 - Cordova-Gorgas Rd

Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Maintenance of local roads (potholes, paving, sidewalks)



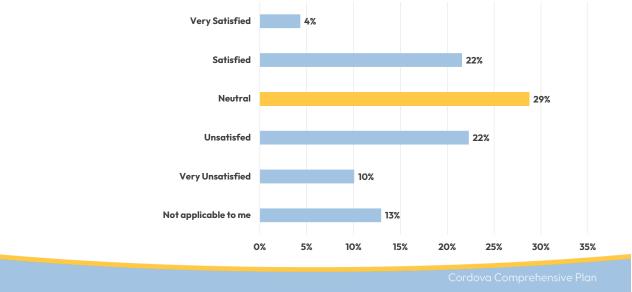
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Sanitation Department (trash and debris)



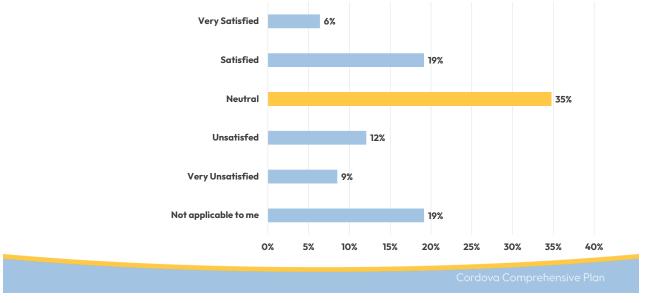


Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Public Works Department

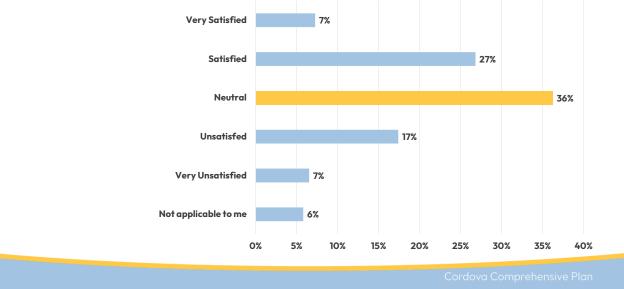
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Property code enforcement

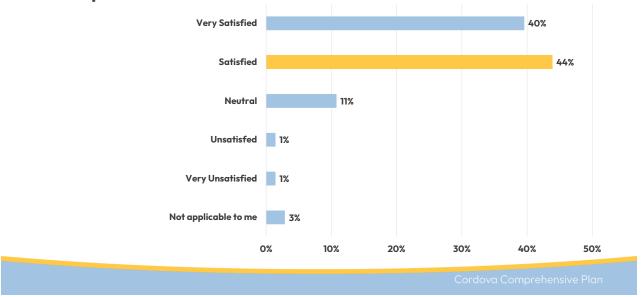


Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Responsiveness by the Town to formal complaints



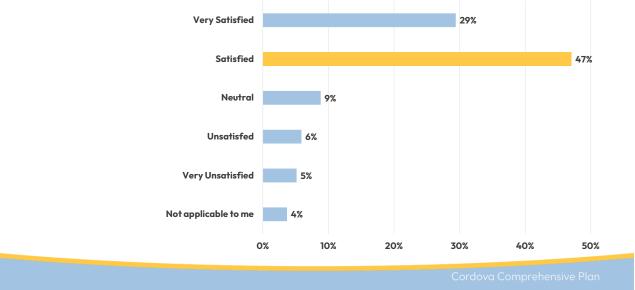
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Public facilities



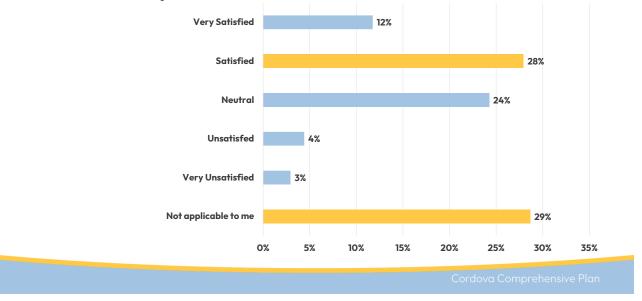


Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Fire Department

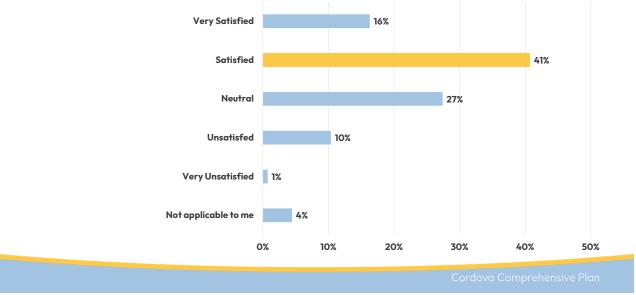
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Police Department

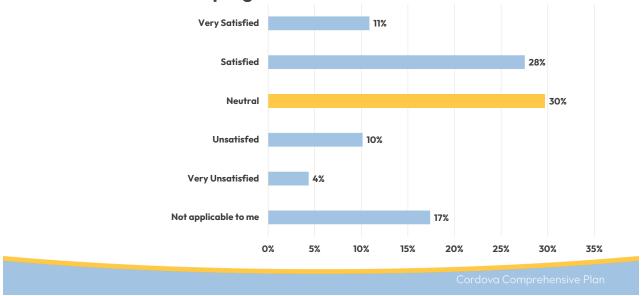


Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Cordova Municipal Court



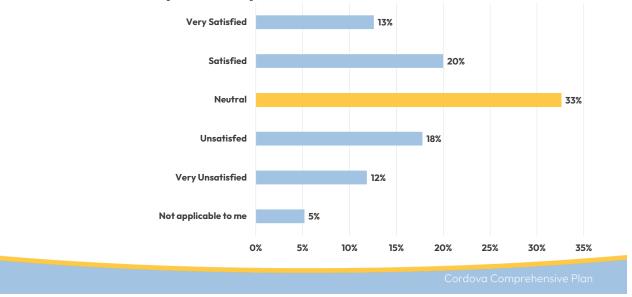
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Parks and Recreation Department



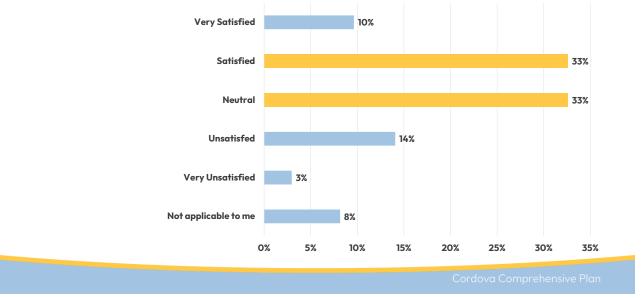


Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Senior and children's programs

Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Economic Development Department



Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Town website / E-services



Q16: Please feel free to elaborate on your satisfaction with public services here:

- Room for improvement:
 - Street maintenance desired
 - Code enforcement
 - Roadside cleanliness, e.g., debris
 - Online presence (praised, but more desired)
 - Too much focus on sports
- High marks:
 - Fire Department
 - Indian Head Mill Park

28

Q17: Are there any additional public services you would like to see in Cordova?

- Childcare
- Senior services
- Parks and Rec Department expansion
- Library

- Animal control
- EV charging
- Improved internet
- Food bank
- Community garden

Cordova Comprehensive Plan

Q18: My BIG IDEA for the future of my community is...

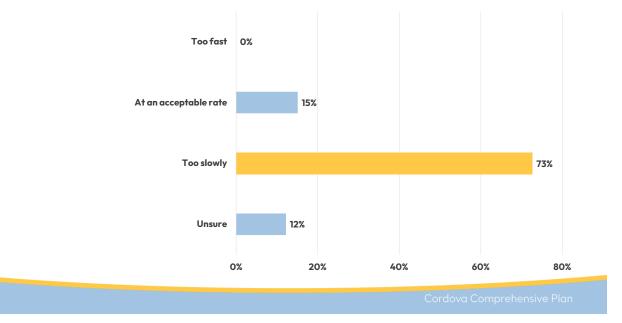
- Higher occupancy and population growth
- Expanded local job opportunities
- Downtown revitalization
- More small businesses
- Transition to service economy
- Outdoor recreation, e.g., the river
- More housing options

Q19: Do you have any other comments, ideas, suggestions, or recommendations that you would like to share with the planning team?

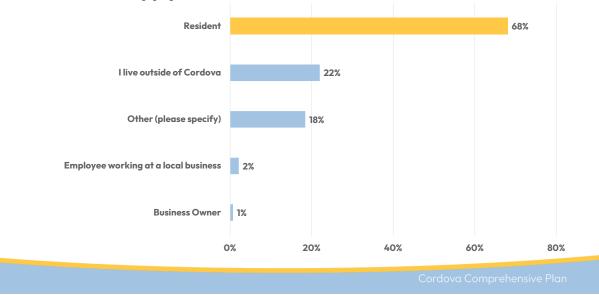
- General beautification of the public realm
- Code enforcement needed
- Desire for more businesses

Cordova Comprehensive Plan

Q20: Cordova is growing....



Q21: Please describe your relationship to the Town of Cordova. (Choose all that apply)





Issues & Opportunities Banners

Participants were asked to write, in their own words:

- What is working
- What is not working
- What is needed

Regarding the following topics:

- Economic development
- Quality of life
- Community development
- Transportation & infrastructure

• •
\mathbf{O}

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
Business Opportunities (What types of businesses is Cordova best positioned to attract? What new types of businesses would you like to see?)			 Retail Resturants Retail busineesses (variety) more resturants/ options
Partnerships & Organizations			
Local Government Support (Financial incentives, permitting process, tax credits, regulatory assistance, etc.)			 Attract businesses to rent city owned buildings with competitive pricing so that the city can get additional revenue from rent and taxes.
Business Recruitment / Retention Efforts			 Marketing to bring people into existing businesses.
Workforce Development (Is there a sufficient talent pool for companies in Cordova? How can Cordova residents become more competitive employees?)			

QUALITY OF LIFE

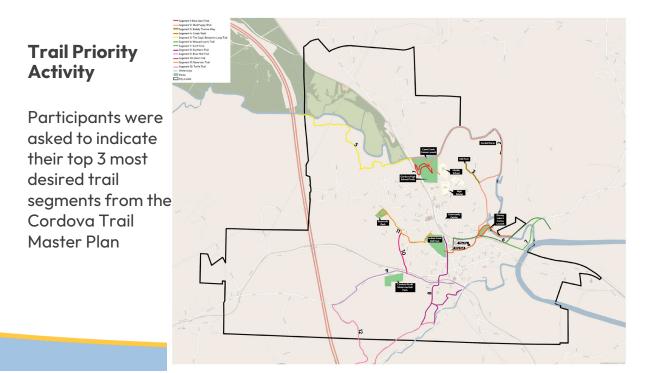
ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
Placemaking (What's missing that would make Cordova even better? 1.e., gathering places, wayfinding, streetscaping, street furniture)	 Picnic tables at Indian Mill Park Music at the Pig 		More housing.
Community Facilities (City Hall, Community Center, storm shelters, Library, etc.). What types of programming would you like to see in a new library?			 Kid programs Library programs - storytime for littles, arts and cradts Summer reading program for kids Educational classes
Municipal Services (Public Works Department, garbage and debris removal, stormwater management, etc.)			
Parks & Recreation (Indian Head Mill Park, Disney Lake Park, City of Cordova Ballfield and other public facilities, park maintenance, programming, senior and children programs, etc.)	 New developments for parks and playgrounds are looking good. 	 My fear is the park seem spread out. Will parents feel safe letting kids play on the playground while the other kid plays baseball? 	 Put the skate park back up! Maybe add some shade and seating to the playground area.
Entertainment, Shopping, and Dining Opportunities			 Need shopping and entertainment - coffee shop, restrooms, barber shop More dining options would be great!
Access to Childcare and Healthcare Services			

	1
	Ζ
I I	
	>
	00

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
Housing (Diversity of housing sizes, prices, etc. What new types are desired and where?)			 We need more homes built! People are ready to buy. People need a reason to come here, they are less likely to decide to build their own homes, but if there was new construction they would come here.
Senior Housing (Is senior housing needed? What kind? I.e., assisted living, 55+ communties, etc.)			
Code Enforcement: Residential Areas (Are there issues with how property maintenance codes are enforced?)			
Code Enforcement: Commercial Areas (Are there issues with how property maintenance codes are enforced?)			
Public Safety, Police, Fire & Municipal Court			 Maybe have a paid fulltime fireman per shift to help cover calls that the volunteers can't get to when they are at work.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
Mobility Options (Where are new sidewalks and bicycle facilities needed?)			 All the main roads need safe sidewalks. New sidewalks (all roads)
Street Maintenance (Note areas where improvements are needed, bad pavement conditions, etc.)		 Old roads not paved in 10+ years. If its been paved recently don't repave before the others. 	 The 3-way intersection infront of white house needs to be a 4 way. It is not safe.
Other Traffic Issues (Please be specific)			
Speeding Areas and Other Traffic Issues		Speeding on new Amory Avenue.	
Utilities / Internet Access			 Internet availability outside of city limits.



Trail Priority Activity

Trail Segment	Percent of Participants Indicating Segment as a Priority
Segment 1: Blue Devil Trail	7%
Segment 2: Mud Puppy Trail	25%
Segment 3: Buddy Thorne Alley	0%
Segment 4: Creek Walk	21%
Segment 5: The Capt. Benjamin Long Trail	7%
Segment 6: Massachusetts Trail	0%
Segment 7: Scott Trail	0%
Segment 8: Southern Trail	18%
Segment 9: River Rat Trail	0%
Segment 10: Dent Trail	0%
Segment 11: Reservoir Trail	18%
Segment 12: Turtle Trail	4%
	49

Cordova Comprehensive Plan

Aerial Mapping Activity

Using a large aerial map of Cordova, participants were asked to identify sites or areas that:

Are assets
Have issues
Present an opportunities
Need improvement



Aerial Mapping Activity

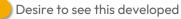
Indian Head Mill Park:

Great community asset Needs improvement (general maintenance, lighting around the track, and shade)

Downtown:



Land adjacent to state dock:





DRAFT PLAN REVEAL OPEN HOUSE OVERVIEW PRESENTATION

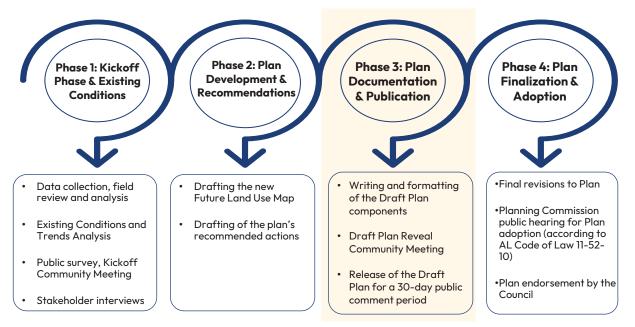
The following presentation was presented at the January 22, 2024 Public Meeting.



CORDOVA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

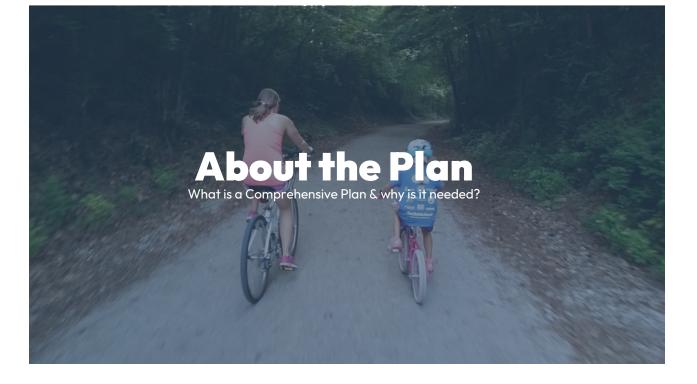
Draft Plan Reveal Meeting January 22, 2024

4-Phase Plan Development Process

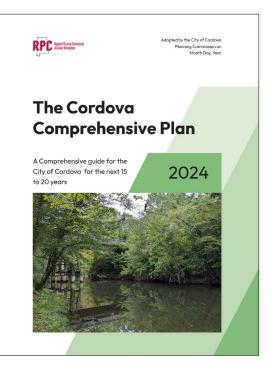


WHY IS THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NEEDED?

- To assist elected officials and city leaders with decision-making over the next 5-15 years based on the citizen's vision for growth and investment.
- To prepare for future growth, development and redevelopment and to proactively consider new opportunities to enhance quality of life.
- To provide a set of recommended actions that are feasible for implementation or adoption.
- The existing Cordova Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2005.



Chapter 1	Plan Overview
Chapter 2	Cordova Today
Chapter 3	Catalytic Project Ideas
Chapter 4	Future Land Use
Chapter 5	Code Enforcement & Reform
Chapter 6	Recreation and Green Systems
Chapter 7	Livability & Public Services
Chapter 8	Mobility and Infrastructure
Chapter 9	Implementation
Appendix A	Public Involvement Summary



This project was supported by funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB). The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the ARC or the RPCGB.

The contents of this Comprehensive Plan reflects the City of Cordova's community values. The Plan serves as a guide to interpreting citizen values into future land use decisions, capital investments and public policies. As such, this Comprehensive Plan is not legally binding upon the City of Cordova.

Statement on the inside cover page Not a legally binding plan, but a policy guide



PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Comprehensive Plan contains nine Chapters and one Appendix. Chapters 3-8 are organized by the following planning elements: Catalytic Projects, Future Land Use, Cade Enforcement and Reform, Recreation & Green Systems, Livability & Public Services, and Mobility & Infrastructure. Each chapter is organized into topical sections with recommended actions for implementation.

Tabl	e 1.2: Plan Organization	
	Plan Chapters	Description
1	Plan Overview	This chapter includes the purpose of the plan, the legal foundation for planning in Alabama, a summary of how the plan is organized, and a high-level summary of the public involvement process.
2	Cordova Today	This chapter briefly highlights existing conditions and trends in Cordova. Topics presented include socioeconomic data, housing data, an inventory of existing infrastructure and community facilities, as well as existing land use and zoning data.
3	Catalytic Projects	This Chapter details eight specific catalytic project ideas that are intended to connect the City's existing assets, enhance economic vitality, and direct new development opportunities.
4	Future Land Use	This chapter presents the Future Land Use Map, which will guide the City's future zoning and land use decisions. Descriptions of the future land use categories and the future land use goals are also provided.
5	Code Enforcement and Reform	This chapter provides recommended actions pertaining to code enforcement and recommended revisions needed to the City's Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Regulations and other codes and ordinances.
6	Recreation & Green Systems	This chapter provides recommended actions pertaining to enhancements to existing parks and recreational facilities, planning for future parks and recreational facilities, and incorporating resiliency best practices.
7	Livability & Public Services	This chapter provides guidance to make enhancements to community facilities and services, suggestions for improvements to the public realm, and strategies to promote economic vitality.
8	Mobility & Infrastructure	This chapter provides recommended actions pertaining to expanding mobility options throughout the City and transportation infrastructure improvements and maintenance.
9	Implementation	This chapter includes the detailed implementation matrix for the Plan's recommended actions and describes lead partners that should help with implementing each of the actions.
A	Appendix A: Public Involvement Summary	The appendix includes detailed documentation of the public involvement process associated with the development of this Plan. Each of the outreach methods are detailed (project vebsite, surveys, open houses, etc.), clong with participation rates, survey results and information gathered through the outreach activities.



Community Survey

146 Responses

September 26, 2023 Kickoff Community Meeting

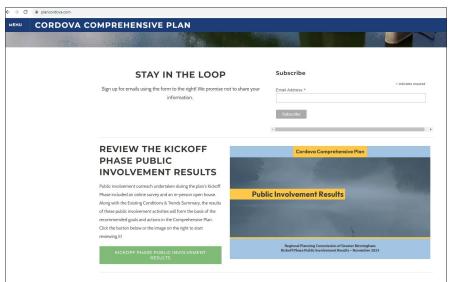
31 Attendees

Stakeholder Interviews and Questionnaires

22 Completed questionnaires

E-BLAST NOTIFICATIONS

140 Email subscribers



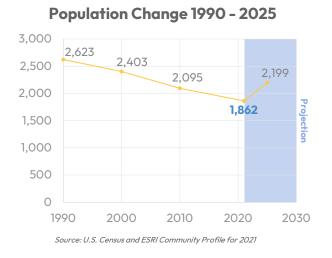
381 unique website visitors www.PlanCordova.com

Chapter 2: Cordova Today

Demographic Profile22
Housing Profile25
Employment Profile27
Commuting Profile29
Parks and Open Space30
Community Facilities and Services30
Zoning
Zoning
Existing Land Use36
Existing Land Use



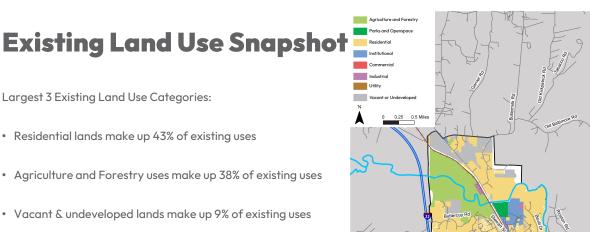
Population Change and Projected Growth



Population (2021)



2021 Population: **1,862** -**11%** since 2010 -**29%** since 2000



Source: RPCGB

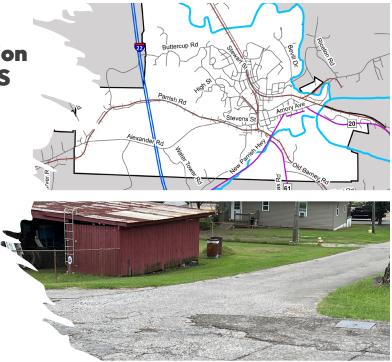
Largest 3 Existing Land Use Categories:

• Residential lands make up 43% of existing uses



Awarded a \$5.1 million RAISE grant from US Department of Transportation

• Will provide funding for repaving, repairs and improvements to take place on approximately 15 miles of local roadways



Awarded a \$5.5 million grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for sewer lines

- Will improve the City's sanitary sewer system and address areas within the system that were impacted by inflow and infiltration issues, especially in the Downtown area
- Will also address stormwater issues.

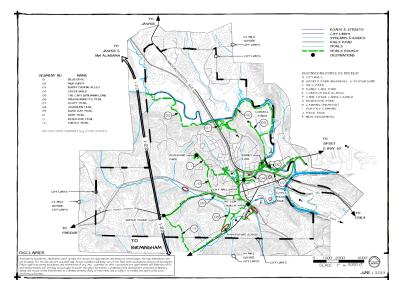


Awarded a \$2.8 million grant from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to extend new gas lines

• Will extend new gas services to existing customers through replacing existing cast iron pipes with polyethylene



A Recreational Trails Master Plan was recently completed in June 2023



Awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham to make improvements at Indian Head Mill Park

- Includes moving the existing playground, which will become an inclusive playground
- Addition of bathroom and shower facilities, benches and picnic tables



Awarded a \$368,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to fund the demolition and clearance of up to 30 vacant and dilapidated structures.

• Conditionally awarded the grant, based on some follow-up information.





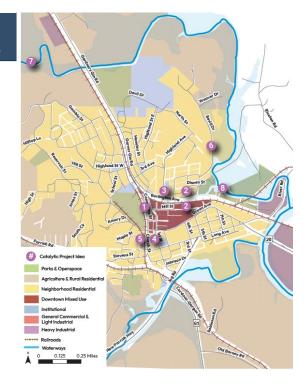
8 Catalytic Project Ideas:

- 1. Continue to support the development of Downtown Cordova.
- 2. Expand housing options in Downtown Cordova and at Disney Lake.
- 3. Rebuild the public library.
- 4. Establish a business incubator.
- 5. Develop a unified citywide branding and marketing plan.
- 6. Build out a citywide trail system.
- 7. Recruit a developer to create an eco-adventure retreat along Cane Creek.
- 8. Support CEIDA as they seek to build a permanent campground.

8 Catalytic Project Ideas

Project ideas with the potential for positive "catalytic" change.

• Highlighted for their ability to have a direct, significant, and positive economic impact on the City and because they have the potential to leverage spin off projects that can add long-term value to the property tax base.



 Continue to support the development of Downtown Cordova.

The City has been awarded an EPA Brownfields grant for a consultant team to create a detailed Redevelopment Plan for the parcels highlighted on the map.



2 Expand housing options in Downtown Cordova and at Disney Lake.

Incorporate medium – high density housing types:

- Live-work units
- Upper story dwellings in mixed-use developments
- Courtyard buildings
- Cottage courts
- Duplexes, fourplexes
- Multiplexes
- Townhouses
- Senior housing



3 Rebuild the public library.

During the public engagement process of this Plan, Cordova's residents expressed their desire to see the following amenities at a new library:

- Physical collections
- Digital collections
- Computers with internet access
- Study spaces
- Maker spaces
- Children and teenager areas





Establish a business incubator.

Already, the City has secured funding for the construction of the business incubator building. Construction is scheduled to kick off in 2024.

The following spaces have been planned for the incubator:

- Mentorship and training
- Shared and affordable office space
- Marketing assistance
- Industry-specific support





5 Develop a unified citywide branding and marketing plan.

Elements should include:

- New city logo
- Revising the City's website and establishing an active presence on social media platforms
- Enhancements of gateways
- Comprehensive wayfinding signage system
- Parking branding program
- High graphic standards focused on local identity and aesthetics



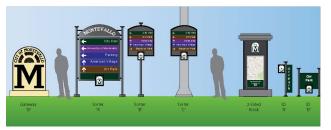


Figure 3.3: Proposed trails listed in the Cordova Re

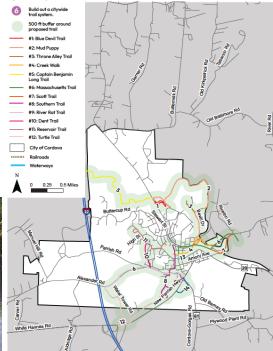
6 Build out a citywide trail system.

The 2023 Trails Master Plan identified 12 trail segments covering a total distance of approximately 10 miles. The City has identified the following 4 priority trail segments for construction:

- Segment #1: Blue Devil Trail
- Segment #4: Creek Walk
- Segment #8: Southern Trail
- Segment #11: Reservoir Trail







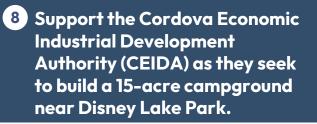
al Trails Master Pla

 Recruit a developer to create an eco-adventure retreat along Cane Creek.

373 acres of vacant land exist next to Cane Creek that could be utilized as a world-class outdoor recreation and ecotourism destination.

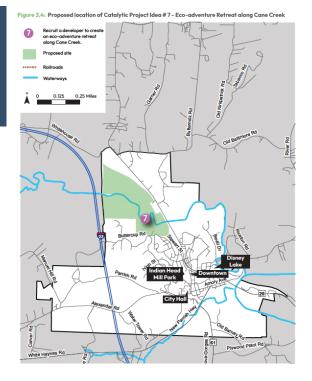
Features could include:

- Lodge and glamping facilities
- On-site restaurants
- Campgrounds
- Outdoor activities and rentals





The City was awarded a \$5,000 grant through the CAWACO Resources Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council to conduct the necessary site work.



gure 3.5: Proposed location of Catalytic Project Idea # 8 - CEIDA Campground at Disney Lake

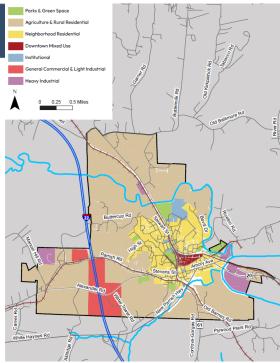




What is the Future Land Use Map?

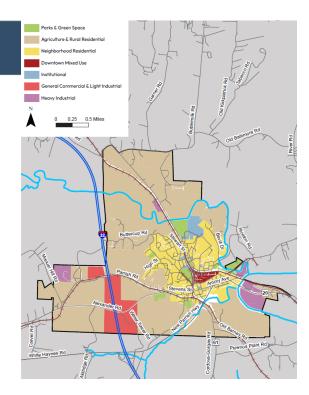
The Future Land use Map is the primary guide for the desired future physical development and character of the City:

- How to grow and where
- What to preserve and where
- Illustrates what the City should look like in 15 years



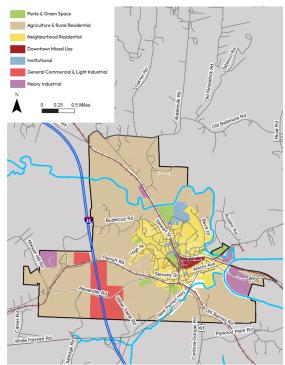
What is the Future Land Use Map?

- The Future Land Use Map is a long-range tool intended to guide decisions about future zoning, development and infrastructure investments.
- It is <u>not a zoning map</u>.
- It does **NOT** change property rights allowed by zoning in place today.



Proposed Future Land Use Map 7 categories





What is the Future Land Use Map?

- The Future Land Use map is a guide where • different development types should be allowed to develop in the future.
- Thus, the land use categories shown on the Future Land Use Map recommend a range of potentially appropriate land uses.

		Future Land Use Categories						
		Parks & Green Space	Agriculture & Rural Residential	Neighborhood Residential	Downtown Mixed Use	Institutional	General Commercial & Light Industrial	Heavy Industrial
	Parks, trails, & green space	х	x	х	х			
	Farms & forestry		x					
	Single family detached dwellings		×	х				
	Townhouses, duplexes, multiplexes			х	x			
	Apartments / condos				×			
	Mixed use				×			
	Neighborhood service/retail			×	×			
	Restaurants and small footprint retail				×		x	
Jses*	Tourist home			x	×			
	Mid-rise office and industrial parks					×	×	×
cable I	Professional offices				x	x		
Appli	Places of assembly or worship		×	х	х	х		
	Schools & public facilities		x	x	х	х		
	Hotel/motel				х		x	
	Regional commercial						x	
	Light industrial & manufacturing						x	
	Warehousing						x	
	General/heavy industrial & manufacturing							×
	Port & bulk material shipping							×
	Resource extraction							×

Future Land Use Categories – Example Page

DOWNTOWN MIXED USE

DEDUCTION MIXED USES The Downtown Meed Use disalification provides Indu that compose the social and economic heart or downtown of the City, Fulure and uses are environment. With compose the social and people shopping, diring, verying, Jiving, and attending tork events. This rand use race also controls proceed that or splace four and this area and a greater density and intensity uses is encouraged. The diring of the composition of a broad range of housing towards in this area and a greater density and intensity uses is encouraged. Also envisioned as a comfortable people and the social and the own downtees that and the socies of the social and the social the social meeting of the people rained was and four and this area and a greater density and intensity uses is encouraged. Also envisioned as a comfortable people the incoverse of the social and the social people the incoverse of the social and the social and intersecting perpendicular street pattern.

Primary Land Uses

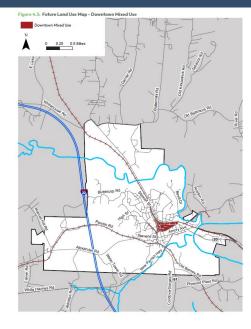
- Aprimer complexes
 Aprimer complexes
 Aritian production (of equipment should be enclosed within the building)
 Carles and restaurants (no drive-through)
 Combination develling/live-work units
 Mixed-use buildings
 Middplexes
- Multiplexes
 Professional office, retail and service uses
 Upper-story dwelling units, both owner-occupied and rental-occupied units

Secondary Land Uses

- Decortant y ware ware a Accessory dwallings
 Boarding/rooming houses
 Duplexes
 Townhouses
 Townhouses
 Public facilities, including city-owned institutions, community centers, and
 parts
 Hotels and motels

- General Characteristics
- Peried of Charlocher Sincs
 The inclusion of public amenities such as pedestrian plazas, sidewalks, and landscaping that help to create a walkable and cohesive development.
 A higher intersity mix of uses is intended to cother to an 'urban' firstlyle, providing a confortable pedestrian environment of blocks based on a grid or intersecting perpendicular street pattern.
- Stormwater management facilities are integrated (where feasible) into the landscaped environment.





How should the Cordova Planning Commission evaluate development proposals for consistency with the Future Land Use Map and Comprehensive Plan?

Answer 3 Questions

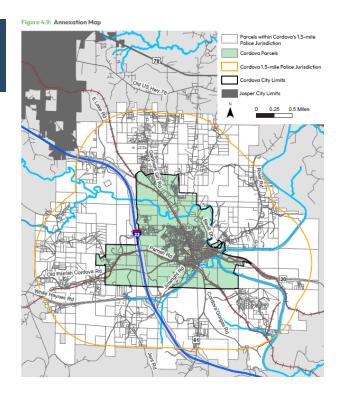
- 1. Is the development proposal consistent with the Future Land Use Map? Does the proposal align with the suggested land uses within the designated Future Land Use Map category?
- 2. Is the proposed development compatible with the existing or planned character of the adjacent area? Or will it create substantial adverse impacts to the adjacent area?
- 3. Is the proposal consistent with the recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan?



Future Land Use Goal 1: Support thoughtful growth and development.

Develop and adopt an annexation policy.

SAMPLE ANNEXATION POLICY
I. PURPOSE. To estabilish the City's official policy position when considering future petitions for annexation or City referends for annexation.
II. POLICY.
 The City will only approve annexation which would result in a demonstrable advantage to the City. Ensure consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan.
 The City will consider each subdivision as a whole entity. No lots in a subdivision will be annexed without the annexation of the entire subdivision.
 Annexation petitions for territory eligible for annexation will be considered on a priority basis as follows:
 Encloves surrounded by the City's corporate limits.
 Those areas which are already served by municipal services.
 Those areas to which municipal services can be economically extended.
Those areas on which construction of undesirable land uses is imminent.
 Annexation conditions, such as:
Pre-zoning shall be required prior to annexation. Pre-zoning is proposed zoning that takes full effect upon annexation. This exaves that no lond in the City is ever 'unaond.' Pre-zoning in Alabama is only valid for 1800 days, so this process should only begin when the annexation process begins. When developing pre- zoning, consider relevant factors such as this future lond use plan and adjacent land uses.
 The City shall require annexation as a condition of planning actions, such as subdivision plat approval, in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.
 The City shall require annexation as a condition of extending municipal services into the extraterritorial jurisdiction.
 Annexed land shall receive an equal level of municipal services as other ferritory within the City's corporate limits.
 If a majority of subdivision residents wish to be annexed, they may file a petition with the City Clerk signed by a majority of property owners in the subdivision.
 The City Clerk will investigate such petitions in consultation with City staff and present a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council.
 If the City concurs by resolution, then the Mayor will certify a copy of such resolution to the judge of probate of the country where the lond is situated. Said certified resolution shall have attached a plat or map of such area. The judge of probate will then hold an election. See Alabama Code of Law Section 11-42-2 for more information.
III. RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY. The City reserves the authority to amend, modify or change this policy.



<u>Future Land Use Goal 2:</u> Encourage sustainable long-term development patterns.



Encourage infill development of vacant sites and redevelopment of older structures.



Encourage mixed-use development in Downtown Cordova.

Future Land Use Goal 3: Foster housing equity by encouraging a wide range of housing types.

Adopt modifications to the Zoning Ordinance to expand housing choices for residents of various ages and socioeconomic levels and improve the quality of housing that is developed.



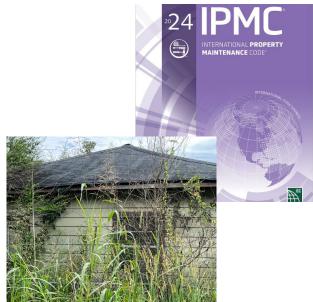




Code Enforcement

Adopt the latest version of the International Property Maintenance Code:

- Enables the City to address properties that contribute to blight.
- Gives the City the legal means to quickly and efficiently correct violations.



Code Enforcement



Establish a "Library of Things" to allow residents to borrow various hand or power tools and other supplies.



Explore the feasibility of establishing a home maintenance program for the elderly and disabled.

<u>Code Reform</u>

Make modifications to the City's Zoning Ordinance to permit:

- Mixed-use development in Downtown Cordova
- Combination live-work units
- Accessory dwelling units in all detached residential districts
- Tiny homes on small-lots
- Artisan manufacturing
- Microbrewery





Enhancements to Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities

Consider hiring a full-time Parks and Recreation crew to ensure the consistent maintenance of City-owned parks, recreational facilities and trails.





Enhancements to Existing Parks and Recreational Facilities

Continue to make improvements to Indian Head Mill Park.

Items requested by the public in the Community Survey include:

- Provide additional shade through shade sails and trees
- Install water fountains in key locations
- Install additional lighting
- Construct public bathrooms
- Improve the surface of the walking trail



Planning for Future Parks and Recreational Facilities

Explore the feasibility of building an athletic complex, especially near I-22.



Utilize a range of regulatory tools and best practices to protect vital natural resources, sensitive lands, waterways and scenic areas from future development.

- Adopt a Steep Slopes Ordinance to protect scenic views and reduce stormwater runoff and erosion.
- Add Low Impact Development provisions to the Subdivision Regulations.
- Encourage landowners to conserve sensitive land through conservation easements and land donations.









Community Facilities, Services and Infrastructure

Pursue funding sources to expand broadband infrastructure throughout the City, especially in under-served areas.



Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce Walker County has a 50% match required Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Up to \$2,000,000 April and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative Community Connect Grant Program U.S. Dept. of Up to \$3,000,000 15% match Required December Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) ReConnect Loan and Grant Program U.S. Dept. of 25% match Required Up to \$25,000,000 November Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) Alabama Departme of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Program Up to \$200,000 Walker County has a 50% match August required Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund Grant* 20% match Required November Up to \$5,000,000

Table 7.1: Federal and State Funding Sources for Broadband Projects

Livability & Public Services

Ensure that the Cordova Police Department and Cordova Fire and Rescue Department personnel have adequate resources to respond to emergencies.



Public Realm Improvements



Make streetscape improvements on streets leading into and in Downtown Cordova.

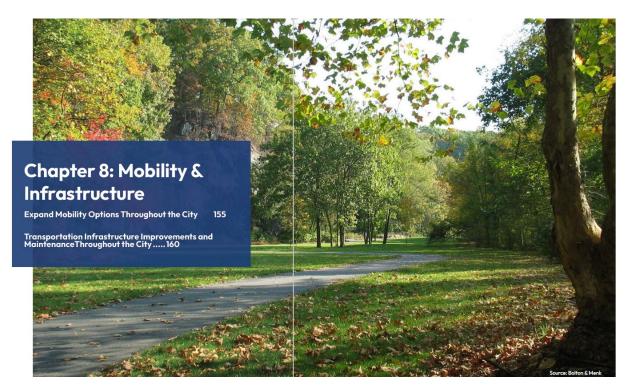
Along North Massachusetts Avenue, Main Street, 1st Avenue, Commerce Street and Mill Street

Economic Vitality

Foster economic growth through the promotion Cordova's recreational opportunities and continue to nurture an outdoor recreation-based economy.



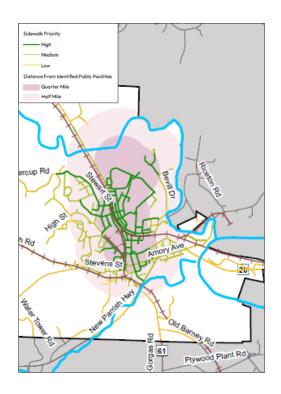




Expand Mobility Options Throughout the City



Expand pedestrian infrastructure to connect residents to Downtown Cordova and to community facilities.



Transportation Infrastructure Improvements and Maintenance



Dedicate municipal resources for the necessary maintenance of culverts and ditches (to prevent blockages and flooding issues).

Cost Ranges of Selected Traffic Calming Measure

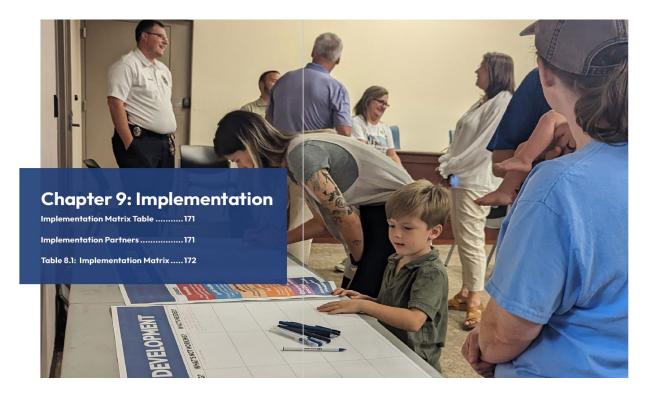
Measure	Average Speed Reduction	Cost Range
Speed Table	7 - 9 mph	\$5,000 - \$15,000
Speed Bump	5 - 8 mph	\$2,000
Chicane	3 - 9 mph	\$10,000 - \$16,000 for a set of three
Raised Median Island	4 mph	\$6,000 - \$9,000
Pedestrian Refuge Island	4 mph	\$10,000 - \$30,000
Choker	I - 4 mph	\$5,000 - \$20,000





Develop a traffic calming policy to reduce speeding in residential areas using context-appropriate measures.

67

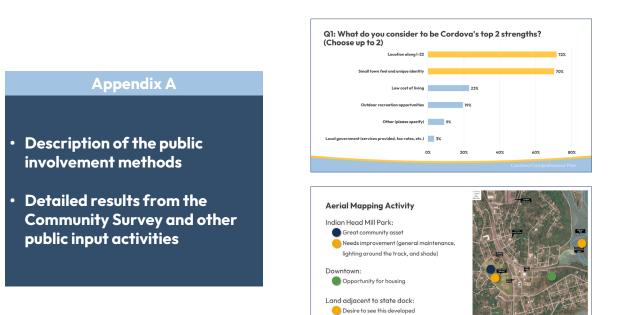


Implementation Matrix

Should be used as a guide for how the recommended actions can be implemented and tracked:

- Action description and page #
- Suggested implementation timeframe:
 - Short-term (1-5 years)
 - Long-term (more than 5 years)
 - On-going
- Potential lead partners

Table 9.1: Implementation Matrix							
	Action	Page #	Priority	Timeframe	Potential Partners		
Chapter 3: Catalytic Project Ideas							
1	Continue to support the development of Downtown Cordova.			Ongoing			
2	Expand housing options in Downtown Cordova and at Disney Lake.						
3	Rebuild the public library.						
4	Establish a business incubator.						
5	Develop a unified citywide branding and marketing plan.			Short-term			
6	Build out a citywide trail system.			Long-term			
7	Recruit a developer to create an eco- adventure retreat along Cane Creek.						
8	Support CEIDA as they seek to build a campground.						
	Cha	pter 4: Fu	uture Land Use				
	Goal #1: Support	thoughtf	ul growth and de	velopment.			
1	Develop and adopt an annexation policy.						
	Goal #2: Encourage su	stainable	long-term devel	opment patterns.			
2	Continue to support the development of downtown Cordova.						
3	Explore the feasibility of establishing a TIF district downtown.						
4	Support context-sensitive design that corresponds to Cordova's identity.						
5	Encourage mixed-use development.						
6	Encourage the use of a modified B-2 Downtown Business District to promote mixed-use development.						
7	Encourage the development of additional neighborhood commercial properties.						
8	Encourage the development of general commercial uses on vacant land near I-22.						
9	Encourage infill development of vacant sites and redevelopment of older structures.						





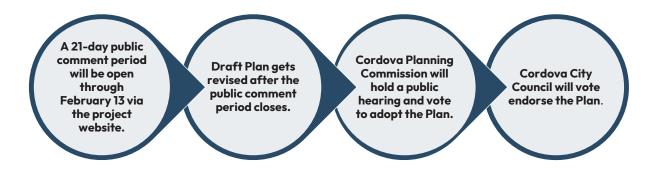
Tonight's Activity

At the chapter topic tables, tell us what your priorities are by ranking each recommended action on a scale of 1 to 3.

A score of 3 indicates that you believe there is great need for that action to be implemented.

U	HELP US PRIORITIZE THE ACTIONS OF	RANK ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 3, WITH 3	COMMENTS
	THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	INDICATING THE GREATEST NEED pport thoughtful growth and development.	
	Develop and adopt an annexation policy.		
	Encourse	ge sustainable long-term development patterns.	
		generalized and the second and the s	
	Continue to support the development of downtown Cordova.		
	Explore the feasibility of establishing a TIF district downtown.		
	Support context-sensitive design that corresponds to Cordova's identity.		
	Encourage mixed-use development.		
	Encourage the use of a modified B-2 Downtown Business District to promote mixed-use development.		
	Encourage the development of additional neighborhood commercial properties.		

Next Steps Toward Plan Adoption



SUBMIT COMMENTS VIA THE PROJECT WEBSITE UNTIL FEBRUARY 13

CORDOVA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Share your thoughts. We value your perspectivel Use the comment form provided on this page to submit your feedback to the planning team. Have more than one comment? Feel free to type up your comments and email them directly to the planning team (com input will help shape the final version of the Cordova Comprehensive Plan.
Comment here.
* Indicates required field
Name *
First Last
Email *
Page Number *
Action Number (if applicable)
Comment *
www.PlanCordova.com





PUBLIC MEETING RESULTS: RESIDENTS DEFINE PRIORITIES FOR EACH PLAN RECOMMENDATION

Following the Overview Presentation, attendees were then invited to prioritize the recommendations in each chapter using a handout provided by staff. Priorities were defined as high, medium, and low. The results from the activity are listed in the table below.

#	Action	Priority	Comments					
	Catalytic Proje	ect Ideas						
1	Continue to support the development of Downtown Cordova.	High						
2	Expand housing options in Downtown Cordova and at Disney Lake.	High	Development generally					
3	Rebuild the public library.	High						
4	Establish a business incubator.	High						
5	Develop a unified citywide branding and marketing plan.	High	Separate "LOGO" and "City Seal"					
6	Build out a citywide trail system.	High	After downtown area rebuilt and more housing options are added.					
7	Recruit a developer to create an eco-adventure retreat along Cane Creek.	High	Great idea. But would be best after downtown is rebuilt and we have more housing options added.					
8	Support CEIDA as they seek to build a campground.	High	Seems like a great inexpensive idea. But would be more successful after downtown is rebuilt.					
	Future Land Use							
Goal 1	Support thoughtful gr	owth and devel	opment.					
1	Develop and adopt an annexation policy.	High	Expand the population base for more possibilities for revenue.					
Goal 2	Encourage sustainable long	-term developr	nent patterns.					
2	Continue to support the development of downtown Cordova.	High						
3	Explore the feasibility of establishing a TIF district downtown.	High						
4	Support context-sensitive design that corresponds to Cordova's identity.	High						
5	Encourage mixed-use development.	High						
6	Encourage the use of a modified B-2 Downtown Business District to promote mixed-use development.	High						

Table 2.2: Resident's Priority for Each Plan Recommendation

#	Action	Priority	Comments					
7	Encourage the development of additional neighborhood commercial properties.	High	Too vague - possibly could be a higher priority.					
8	Encourage the development of general commercial uses on vacant land near I-22.							
9	Encourage infill development of vacant sites and redevelopment of older structures.	High	Lottery to incentivize redevelopment.					
10	Ensure future developments improve pedestrian and vehicular connectivity.	High						
Goal 3	Goal 3 Foster housing equity by encouraging a wide range of housing types.							
11	Integrate a mix of densities, styles, and price ranges within residential neighborhoods to serve a range of ages, incomes, lifestyles, and housing preferences.	High	Needs to be carefully planned to avoid artificially limiting growth and property values.					
12	Expand downtown housing options.	High	Would love to see mixed-use development (2).					
13	Encourage the development of waterfront homes north of Disney Lake.	High	If ecotourism is paramount must keep the campground in mind.					
14	Encourage traditional neighborhood developments that offer a variety of housing choices.	High						
15	Encourage the development of 2-to-6-unit multiplexes where appropriate in existing neighborhoods.	Medium	Avoid. Single family homes should be the focus - they are affordable already.					
Goal 4	Balance growth and development with prote	ection for Cord	ova's unique natural resources.					
16	Promote the use of conservation easements to preserve environmentally sensitive land.	High	lf/when appropriate/ best use.					
17	Adopt appropriate policies and regulations to protect prime farmlands, steep slopes, waterways, and scenic areas from inadvertent damage due to future development / construction.	High	Have to keep in mind most of the city's land is considered steep slopes. I don't want to inhibit development (provide a thoughtful workaround).					
	Code Enforcemer	nt & Reform						
	Code Enforcement							
1	Consider hiring a building official and an enforcement officer to improve code enforcement efforts and decrease permit and inspection times.	High	Understanding the responsibilities of each individual are critical. Don't urn it into Hoover with their Police Inspections Department. Find a balance.					
2	Dedicate municipal funds for the building official/ code enforcement officer to attend COAA training.	High						

Appendix B: Public Involvement Summary | The Cordova Comprehensive Plan

#	Action	Priority	Comments
3	Continue to adopt up-to-date versions of the family of technical codes developed by the International Code Council.	High	Electrical!
4	Continue to adopt the latest version of the International Residential Code.	High	Pick and choose
5	Continue to adopt and enforce the latest version of the International Property Maintenance Code to better enable the City to issue warnings and levy fines on quality-of-life offenses on properties.	High	
6	Continue to enforce the Unsafe Structures and Dangerous Building Ordinance.	High	
7	Consider adopting a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance.	High	Definelottery?
8	Encourage property owners to improve properties that have been neglected or that are exhibiting sub-standard maintenance.	High	How? Incentivize? Provide assistance, if possible to people triving to improve property, but don't have the proper reasources.
9	Create a citizen's guide for code enforcement that enables residents to report code violations.	Medium	
10	Explore the feasibility of establishing a home maintenance program for the elderly and disabled.	High	Great concept!
11	Work with local nonprofit organizations to renovate blighted properties.	High	
12	Continue to improve the quality of animal control.	High	Majority of Cordova?
	Code Refe	orm	1
13	Establish and publish a step-by-step application process guide for development and redevelopment.	High	
14	Modify the Village Subdivision design standards to include steep slopes as appropriate areas to implement green infrastructure.	High	
15	Modify the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that future residential construction meets certain durability requirements and safety-related performance requirements.	High	Define
16	Modify the manufactured homes standards in the Zoning Ordinance to allow for infill development.	High	
17	Allow Accessory Dwelling Units by-right in all detached residential districts.	Medium	Unless limited
18	Encourage the use of the R-3 High Density/ Multi- family Residential District to expand housing choices in Cordova.	High	

#	Action	Priority	Comments		
19	Permit combination dwellings in all zoning districts except the R-1 Single Family District, the B-3 Highway Business District, and all industrial districts.	High			
20	Revise the R-2 Medium-Density Single Family Residential District and the R-3 High Density/ Multi-family Residential District to permit compatible residential-focused businesses as a conditional use.	High			
21	Revise the B-2 Downtown Business District to encourage the development of a mixed-use center in Downtown Cordova.	High			
22	Modify the Zoning Ordinance to include a definition for artisan production and revise the permitted uses in the B-2, B-3, and M-1 Districts.	High			
23	Modify the Zoning Ordinance to include definitions for microbrewery and brew pub and revise the permitted uses in the B-1, B-2, and B-3 Districts to allow for them.	High			
24	Allocate money in the City budget for the Planning Commission to attend training courses and workshops on community planning and related issues.	High	lf grants are available.		
	Recreation and Gr	een Systems			
	Enhancements to Existing Parks	and Recreation	al Facilities		
1	Foster economic growth utilizing the City's natural resources and recreational opportunities.	High			
2	Explore the feasibility of a parks branding program.	High			
3	Better publicize the parks and recreational amenities that Cordova has to offer.	High	After more improvements are made.		
4	Consider hiring a full-time Parks and Recreation crew to better maintain City-owned spaces.	High			
5	Continue to make improvements to Indian Head Mill Park.	High			
6	Make improvements needed at Reservoir Park.	High			
7	Promote the redevelopment of the Disney Lake Park.	High			
	Planning for Future Parks and Recreational Facilities				
8	Explore the feasibility of building an athletic complex, especially near I-22.	High	Maybe when we see growth.		
9	Explore the feasibility of constructing a disc golf course.	High			

#	Action	Priority	Comments	
10	Expand cultural and recreational programming to include activities for all ages.	High		
11	Partner with the Tivity Health's SliverSneaker Program to expand recreational programming for seniors.	High		
	Resiliency			
12	Utilize a range of regulatory tools and best practices to protect vital natural resources, sensitive lands, water quality and wildlife habitat.	Medium		
13	Continue to improve stormwater management throughout Cordova.	High		
14	Continue to protect Cane Creek.	High		
15	Adopt a Riparian Buffer Ordinance to improve water quality and protect waterways, wildlife habitate and floodplains from new development.	High	Would need to see the proposal.	
16	Protect water quality by modifying the Zoning Ordinance and/or Subdivision Regulations to require the use of Low Impact Development (LID) or green infrastructure (GI) techniques for new developments and redevelopment projects larger than one acre.	High		
	Livability & Publi	ic Services		
	Community Facilities, Servio	ces and Infrastr	ucture	
1	Rebuild the public library.	High	This would be amazing for the community.	
2	Develop a farmers market certified under the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).	High		
3	Expand broadband infrastructure throughout the City, especially in under-served areas.	High		
4	Ensure that public safety personnel have adequate resources to perform their jobs.	High		
Public Realm Improvements				
5	Clearly define gateways into Cordova through urban design and beautification enhancements.	High		
6	Develop a citywide wayfinding system.	High		
7	Make streetscape improvements on key roadways.	High		
8	Utilize the public realm as an economic development asset.	High		

#	Action	Priority	Comments	
Economic Vitality				
9	Continue to update the existing inventory of vacant land and available properties owned by CEIDA.	High		
10	Establish a business incubator.	High		
11	Expand economic development by supporting recreational opportunities in Cordova.	High		
12	Capitalize on the City's location off of the I-22 corridor.	High		
	Mobilit	у		
	Expand Mobility Options	Throughout the	City	
1	Build out a citywide trail system.	High		
2	Expand pedestrian infrastructure to connect residents to the Downtown Cordova area and to community facilities.	High		
3	Consider creating a sidewalk standard for all new residential developments.	High		
4	Make streetscape improvements along key roadways.	High	Improves city cohesiveness and attracts the right developer.	
5	Provide safe accessible crosswalks at targeted intersections and mid-block crossings.	High	Where would "mid block" crossings go?	
6	Advocate that Walker County and ALDOT accommodate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure into major roadway projects.	High	If grant money could be applied.	
	Transportation Infrastructure Imp	rovements and	Maintenance	
7	Develop a traffic calming policy to reduce speeding in residential areas using context- appropriate measures.	Medium	No speed bumps, round-a-bouts	
8	Dedicate municipal resources to the necessary maintenance of culverts and ditches.	High		
9	Conduct a local street needs assessment to create a prioritized list of improvements and consider the use of a pavement management program.	High		
10	Annually adopt and update a Local Transportation Plan to receive Rebuild Alabama Act funds.	High		
11	Maintain a list of shovel-ready projects eligible for grant funds.	High		
12	Ensure that local development codes are updated to accommodate electric vehicles.	Medium		
13	Ensure that future commercial development along I-22 incorporates adequate EV charging infrastructure.	Medium	More and right now than use	