ATLANTA'S COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 2021
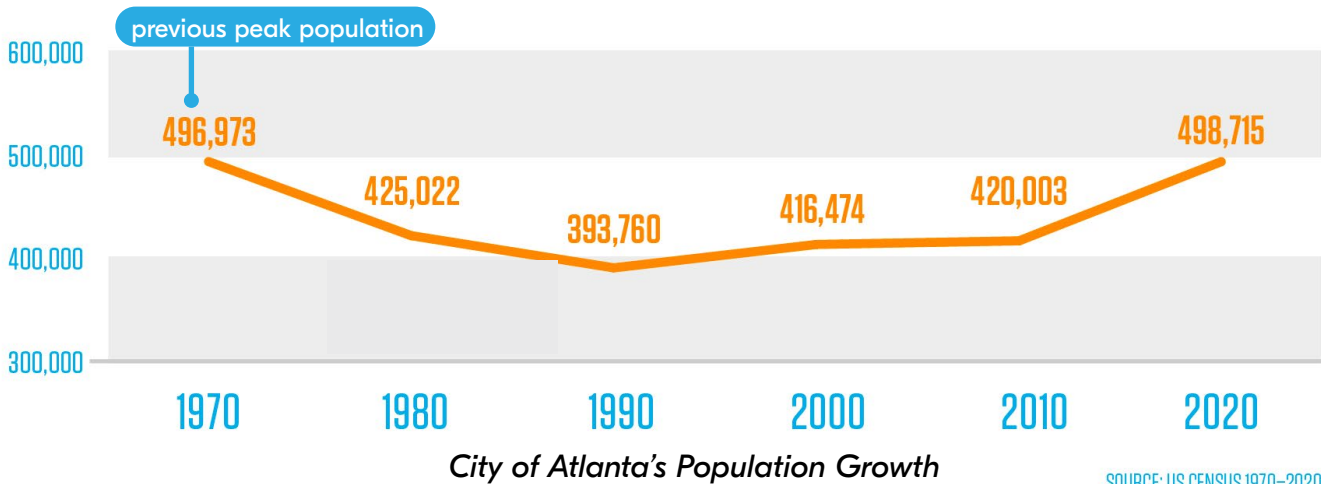
PLAN   A

Department of
CITY PLANNING

COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN ATLANTA

The comprehensive development plan, or "CDP," is Atlanta's guide for growth and development. The CDP shows the important relationships between land use, transportation, housing, economic development, nature, historic preservation, and other aspects of city building. It's planning done at the scale of the city with an emphasis on implementing change. When done well, comprehensive development planning is the foundation for predictable, well managed growth and development.

previous peak population

600,000
500,000 — 496,973
425,022
400,000 — 393,760 — 416,474 — 420,003
498,715
300,000

1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020

City of Atlanta's Population Growth

SOURCE: US CENSUS 1970–2020

Atlanta is changing. That change is largely based on growth. As of the 2020 Census, Atlanta grew to a population of 498,000 people surpassing its original peak population of 495,000 in 1970. *Plan A* is the first update of the City's CDP since the adoption of <u>*Atlanta City Design: Aspiring to the Beloved Community*</u> into the City Charter in 2017. *Atlanta City Design's* framework is based on two ideas: (1) Atlanta is going to change, and (2) almost always, more people are better than fewer.

HOW IS <u>PLAN A</u> DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS CDPs?

Plan A is about being more intentional about how we grow, which means prioritizing people and places and putting infrastructure in service to our lives. *Plan A* starts to align several plans and initiatives using *Atlanta City Design* as a framework to design a future Atlanta with greater density and diversity while conserving the unique character and scale of our neighborhoods.

Think of *Atlanta City Design* as a concept, or starting point, of our city's design. Like any good design, its vision brings focus, but it requires that we continue working together to figure out the details at the scale of the city and in our neighborhoods where everyday life plays out. That's where the work of *Plan A* continues.

Vision

"At our best, Atlanta is both a vibrant city and a verdant forest. Our core values—equity, progress, ambition, access, and nature—will guide our growth and change to create a future city that is designed for people, designed for nature, and designed for people in nature."

Atlanta City Design Community Vision for *Plan A*

Plan A also includes a greater motivation for our work ahead—a series of challenges related to our core values: equity, progress, ambition, access, and nature, that ensures all of the work we do is in support of *Atlanta City Design* and our aspiration to build the Beloved Community. Atlanta's Department of City Planning is facing these challenges as part of our **Planning for Change** commitment, and we are holding ourselves accountable to addressing inequity and social injustice in *Plan A*. To learn more about our commitment, read the full statement at the Department's blog, atlcitydesign.com/blog.

This is just the beginning for *Plan A*. Relying on virtual engagement during the pandemic was difficult, so this CDP update is a snapshot of our work over the past five years and meets the requirements to keep Atlanta's comprehensive development plan relevant. We will continue our planning process by building off our work and starting the second phase to *Plan A* in 2022. Completing the next CDP update will take more than a year, but the outcome will reflect Atlanta at its best and meet the needs of all Atlantans.

CONTEXT FOR PLAN A

Related Plans & Initiatives

As is typical for comprehensive planning, *Plan A* incorporates recent plans and initiatives that have previously benefitted from public and stakeholder input and in this case were shaped by *Atlanta City Design*. These include:

Atlanta's Transportation Plan (2018) defines the challenges our City's transportation system faces and that the new Atlanta Department of Transportation is setting out to solve. It is the roadmap to achieving a transportation future where everyone will enjoy better access without having to rely so heavily on cars; where everyone will travel safely; and, where transportation options are affordable and available to all Atlantans and visitors.

Atlanta City Design Nature (2020) is the first complete urban ecology framework that identifies specific ways to improve access to nature, address environmental justice, and better protect, restore, and enhance Atlanta's natural resources.

Atlanta City Design Housing (2020) tells a story about the past, present, and potential future of land use and zoning and its impact on housing in Atlanta. Its proposals are a result of over two years of research and analysis aimed to eliminate the structures of racism and discrimination that limit housing affordability and exacerbate inequality.

Future Places Project (2020) is an effort to ensure that Atlanta is well-positioned to champion and enact a wide range of historic preservation-related initiatives for years to come.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The process for developing *Plan A* began in Fall of 2020 and *Plan A* was adopted in October of 2021. Over the past 12 months the Department of City Planning convened three leadership and advisory groups to help guide the vision for *Plan A*. Throughout the process the Department received feedback from stakeholders and residents (via virtual meetings, emails and voicemails) that shaped the final document of the City's 2021 comprehensive development plan.

Plan A Phase 1

Objectives:

- Incorporate *Atlanta City Design* into the Land Use element
- Update the nine other planning elements to reflect recent citywide plans since 2016
- Update the three implementing elements
- Meet the state requirements so Atlanta can continue accessing federal and state funds for economic development, affordable housing, and infrastructure

Process:

Existing Conditions & Analysis

↓

Vision & Goals

↓

Draft for Review & Comment

↓

Adoption of Plan A

Plan A Phase 2

Objectives:

- Further align *Plan A* with *Atlanta City Design*
- Facilitate more conversations about the issues of density, land use, zoning, and housing affordability
- Conduct virtual and in-person engagement
- Update the Land Use element through extensive discussion with neighborhoods and in coordination with the rewriting of the Zoning Code

WHO USES PLAN A?

Resident or Business Owner
Cites maps and proposed policies and actions in *Plan A* when requesting to change a property's future land use or zoning.

Neighborhood Planning Unit
Uses *Plan A* as a guide to recommending changes of a property's future land use or zoning, preparing small area plans with the community, and advocating for infrastructure projects. Each NPU also has a set of policies in *Plan A*'s Appendix III, which are great references when making recommendations.

Local Decision Maker
References *Plan A* when deciding on infrastructure projects and adopting legislation for a new plan or a future land use or zoning change.

STRUCTURE OF PLAN A

The main document of *Plan A* consists of an introduction followed by ten planning elements. *Plan A* also has four appendices.

Plan A Main Document

Similar to previous comprehensive development plans, the updated planning elements in *Plan A* guide growth and development in Atlanta. Each element or section within the main document has a **Vision Statement**, **Goals**, **Needs and Opportunities, Policies,** and **Actions,** all of which are pulled from the 2016 CDP or recent citywide plans and initiatives.

Introduction: Comprehensive Planning and *Atlanta City Design*

Planning Element 1: Land Use Planning

Planning Element 2: Transportation

Planning Element 3: Housing and Community Development

Planning Element 4: Local Economic Development

Planning Element 5: Broadband Internet

Planning Element 6: Natural Systems and Resiliency

Planning Element 7: Urban Design

Planning Element 8: Historic Preservation

Planning Element 9: Public Safety Facilities

Planning Element 10 Neighborhood Planning
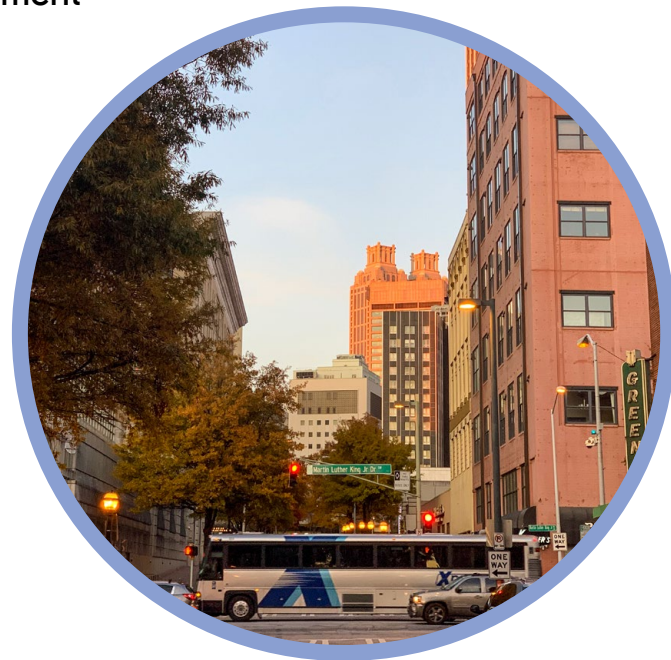
Plan A Appendices

Appendix I: Required Implementing Elements

Appendix II: Additional Engagement Documentation

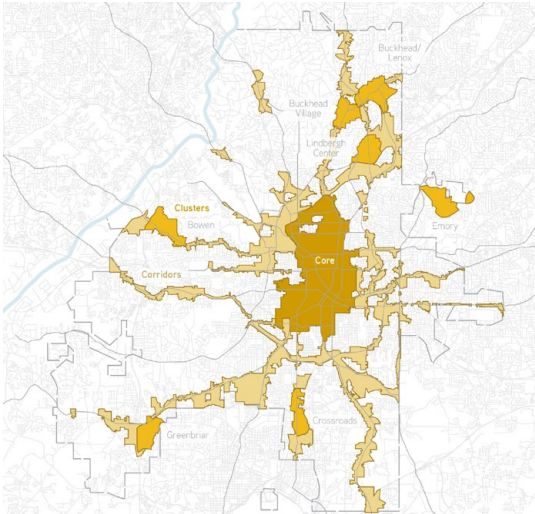**Appendix III:** NPU Policies and Maps

Appendix IV: Glossary

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Land Use Planning

Atlanta City Design challenges us to be exceptional in our design of the physical growth and development of Atlanta. It introduces Growth and Conservation Design Areas to our land use planning approach in this plan.

Growth Areas

Define areas for growth within the city's structure and encourage density near transit. Identify areas of the city, including some outside the core, that are suitable for growth. We must design improved transit service, public space, and other investments to support them.
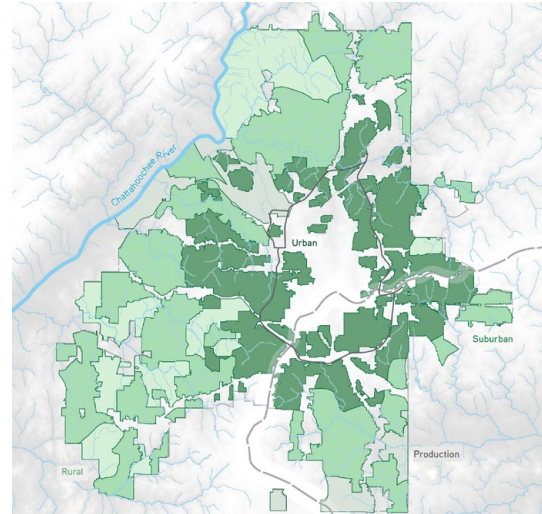
Conservation Areas

These areas protect and celebrate the existing historic, tree-covered neighborhoods of the city. We must encourage more modest growth within these areas that is compatible with each neighborhood's scale and unique character, protects our urban forest, and supports strategic industrial or production areas.

Growth Areas and Conservation Areas are distinctly different and need different design decisions and tools. By designing our future with a focus on growth and conservation, Atlanta can implement solutions that are unique to each neighborhood while designing a future that works for all residents and businesses.

Goals

**Design for People**

Design for Nature

Design for People in Nature

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Land Use Planning Approach and Policies

In addition to Design Areas, our approach to land use planning still relies on Future Land Use Planning along with Character Area Planning. This approach aligns and informs zoning which regulates physical development and uses of properties.
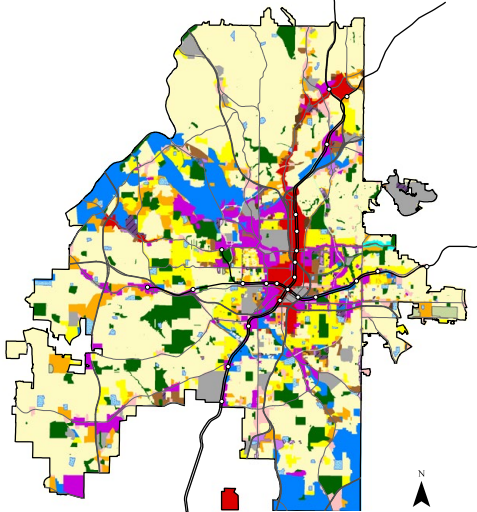
Future Land Use

Future Land Use Planning is the process of designating preferred, compatible land uses for an individual or group of parcels. It serves as the basis for preparing and adopting Zoning that regulates the physical development and limits the specific uses allowed on properties. Often when a property is re-zoned the future land use designation must be updated accordingly.
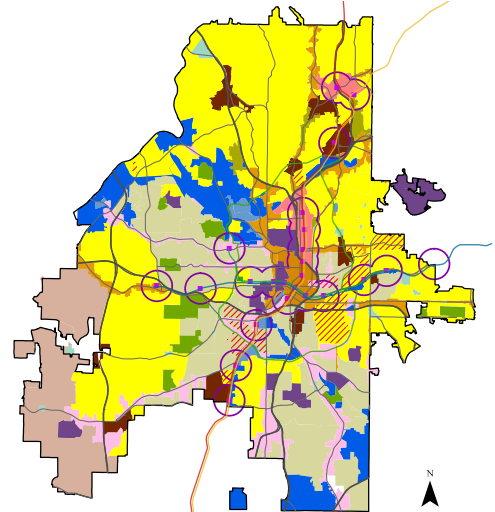
Character Areas

Character Area Planning focuses on distinguishing characteristics to better understand and encourage future development across Atlanta. It guides the designation of Future Land Use and Zoning Districts of properties.

It will take more than this update to Atlanta's comprehensive development plan to fully translate the *Atlanta City Design* in our approach to the physical growth and development of Atlanta. For this update, we continue to work with the policies and practices of Future Land Use Planning and Character Area Planning. But, we recognize the need to revisit these policies and practices as they relate to Design Areas and within the context of the ongoing Zoning Code Reform during the next update.

Policies

LU 1   Revisit the purpose of Character Area Planning and Future Land Use Planning.

LU 2   Provide effective customer-focused design review, planning, approval, compliance, and assistance.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Transportation

This element envisions that people everywhere in the city can enjoy better, safer access without relying so much on a car. Recommendations build on recent citywide plans and the creation of the Atlanta Department of Transportation. It also solidifies the City's commitment to finance long-term improvements, expansion, and maintenance of our transportation system—from MARTA, to bike infrastructure, to roads and bridges.

Goals

Safety
Prevent serious injury and fatal crashes on city streets and ensure everyone can get to their destination safely.
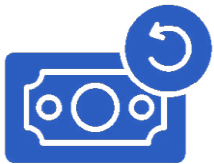
Equity and Affordability
Ensure all Atlantans have equitable access to world-class streets, reliable transit and efficient, affordable transportation options.

Mobility
Maintain and improve accessibility and connectivity for pedestrians, transit riders, cyclists and in-city and through-city freight traffic.

Airport
Expand and improve airport facilities and infrastructure to accommodate anticipated growth in passenger and cargo traffic.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Transportation Policies

TP 1   Develop Vision Zero Program for Atlanta.

TP 2   Make walking, bicycling, and other micro-mobility safer and more pleasant transportation options for all.

TP 3   Build a high-capacity transit network that supports Atlanta's communities.

TP 4   Manage parking to balance the diverse needs of Atlanta's merchants, commuters, and residents.

TP 5   Make it easier to access jobs and services without a car.

TP 6   Explore and create new opportunities for financing short- and long-term improvements, expansion, and maintenance of Atlanta's transportation system.

TP 7   Deliver transportation projects faster and more efficiently.

TP 8   Improve freight movement while balancing the livability of neighborhoods in close proximity to truck routes, rail lines, and other freight transportation infrastructure.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

## Housing and Community Development

Housing recommendations elevate the vision and goals of *Atlanta City Design: Housing* and *One Atlanta: Housing Affordability Action Plan*. These include increasing housing supply citywide and implementing innovative tools to keep housing affordable for residents. Policy actions also include fair housing for vulnerable residents and anti-displacement strategies to aid current residents with increased housing costs.

Goals

Housing Affordability
Foster a dynamic housing market that supplies housing at all price points.
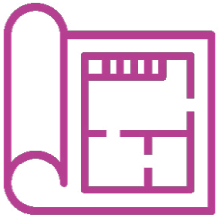
Housing Variety
Innovate practices and diversify housing types, design, and delivery strategies.

Supportive Rules and Tools
Reform government regulations, programs, and standards that advance quality affordable homes.

Priced In
Have prosperity without displacement and with positive outcomes for people at risk of being priced out of their neighborhood.

City Council felt policies HC 4 through HC 7 need considerably more public engagement. These policies along with their policy actions were removed from the final version of Plan A. Phase 2 of Plan A will revisit these policies with residents.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Housing and Community Development Policies

HC 1   Invest $1 billion from public, private, and philanthropic sources in the production and preservation of affordable housing.

HC 2   Support inclusive and mixed income communities.

HC 3   Leverage the public's wealth—federal, state, and local capital, funding, and land resources—to support shared housing goals.

HC 8   Continue regulatory reforms streamlining processes for constructing affordable housing.

HC 9   Develop high quality methods and standards for projects and programs using public resources.

HC 10 Make it easy for people to use existing programs, provide feedback, and keep track of the City's performance.

HC 11 Address public health needs in housing and neighborhoods.

HC 12 Strengthen Atlanta's ability to pursue equitable, fair, and just housing outcomes for vulnerable residents.

HC 13 Implement an anti-displacement strategy in neighborhoods facing increased economic pressures.

HC 14 Reduce the housing-cost burden for Atlanta's most vulnerable residents: expenses like energy, repairs, and legal fees to renting or owning a home.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Local Economic Development

Atlanta is a great place to do business, but we need to prioritize promising, good jobs and supporting small business and entrepreneurs. Recognizing economic recovery for small businesses will not be easy, we better aligned land use policies with our other planning work, like our main street program, placemaking program, and AgLanta program, to support recovery.

Goals

Good Jobs
More Ladders and Lattices; Less Chutes. Support Atlantans as they seek career advancement or transition to better jobs with higher pay and benefits.

Small Business Big Impact
Make small businesses and buying local a priority.

Thriving Neighborhoods
Build a city where neighbors trade goods, services, and stories.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Local Economic Development Policies

ED 1 Address inequality of market outcomes and barriers to economic mobility for workers.

ED 2 Retain, attract, and expand businesses that bring good and promising jobs.

ED 3 Retain and attract a diverse workforce of people with a variety of backgrounds, abilities, talents, skills, and education levels.

ED 4 Drive resources and spending to local small businesses and neighborhood economies.

ED 5 Help more startups and small businesses in disinvested neighborhoods.

ED 6 Increase markets for AgLanta Grown products.

ED 7 Plan for a balance of jobs and housing in neighborhoods.

ED 8 Localize investment in neighborhoods that need it most.

ED 9 Raise the standards for public subsidy.

ED 10 Recognize the role of the arts as an economic driver.

ED 11 Invest in our neighborhood commercial districts with vibrant public spaces.

ED 12 Connect people to healthy food sources and systems in their neighborhood.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Broadband Internet

This is a new element required by the state as the digital divide results in unequal access to information technology. This is a first step to set goals for expanding reliable broadband internet access so all residents, students, businesses, and neighborhoods benefit from 21st-century connectivity. COVID-19 has revealed that some Atlantans face significant barriers to affordable and reliable high-speed internet.

Goals

Expand Service
Coordinate and support both public and private resources and activities that will provide reliable broadband internet services, especially to areas of Atlanta where the digital divide is most pronounced.

Eliminate Barriers
Where the digital divide is significant, eliminate barriers to delivering affordable, or even free, broadband internet.

Be Competitive
Keep Atlanta's unique competitive advantages for industries that rely on super-fast internet, particularly in information technology, analytical instruments, finance and business services, video production, marketing, design, publishing, and higher education.

Policies

BI 1   Evaluate the need for incentives or regulatory changes to expand broadband internet services to sites or areas with limited access.

BI 2   Explore incentives or regulatory changes to attract, retain, and support businesses and their workforces in high-growth industry sectors that depend on the latest broadband internet technology and skills.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Public Safety Facilities

The City's strategies and policies should ensure everyone feels welcome to participate in the life of the city. The global pandemic, national reckoning on racial justice, and other broad trends are significantly testing our local emergency response, health and safety systems, and services for unhoused Atlantans. Policies and actions in this element promote greater resiliency in our public safety facilities—from police and fire stations to our courts and corrections facilities to emergency shelters.

Goals

Training
Implement cultural competency training for police officers, teachers, and others at the front lines of engagement with Atlanta's diverse population.

Community
Support regular, friendly interaction between communities and public safety administrators, social workers and intervention teams to support mutual respect and security.

Facilities
Update, maintain, and construct new fire, shelters, and other such public safety facilities.

Policies

PS 1   Promote resiliency in Public Safety Facilities Planning for Atlanta's growing and diversifying population.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Natural Systems and Resiliency

This element builds on *Atlanta City Design: Nature*, the first complete urban ecology framework for the city published last year. It prioritizes implementing more green infrastructure projects, increasing trail connectivity, increasing access to fresh food, and building resiliency against climate change.

Goals

Implementation
Connect the vision of *Atlanta City Design: Nature* to actions.

Food Security
Reduce food insecurity across the city by ensuring 85% of Atlantans have access to fresh food within a half mile of their home.

Lungs of Atlanta
Expand the forested "Lungs of Atlanta" to provide critical ecosystem services such as cleaner water, cleaner air, and cooler temperatures.

Energy and Climate
Put Atlanta on a pathway to meet the Paris Climate agreement and achieve 100% clean energy by 2035 while reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions and lifting the high energy burden in Atlanta.

Watersheds
Address localized flooding and water quality impacts from stormwater runoff, while improving the resilience of Atlanta's watersheds.

Economic and Environmental Justice
Fulfill a vision for a circular and regenerative economy while protecting Atlantans from the negative environmental impacts of landfills and waste treatment facilities.

Access to Nature
Provide escape routes to nature and access to open space in every community so all Atlantans can easily move between heavily urbanized and more natural areas.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Natural Systems and Resiliency Policies

NR 1 Commit City leadership to internal and cross-departmental coordination and processes to implement *Atlanta City Design: Nature*.

NR 2 Further develop relationships and build broader coordination between City departments and its partners.

NR 3 Protect and restore Atlanta's tree canopy.

NR 4 Acquire and restore high quality forest land within the city.

NR 5 Integrate water resources management across multiple, mutually beneficial actions for wastewater, stormwater, green infrastructure, low impact development, asset management, operations and regulatory compliance.

NR 6 Maintain and improve existing parks and recreation facilities, while increasing access to these facilities and new public open spaces, greenways (through forested or vegetated corridors), and blueways (on rivers and streams) while also protecting and restoring native plant communities and the buffers along rivers and streams (i.e., riparian areas).

NR 7 Support foot, bicycle and other means of active transportation to access these greenways and blueways.

NR 8 Develop, integrate, and institutionalize urban agriculture and access to fresh food into policies, programs, and projects.

NR 9 Provide information and technical assistance on energy systems to help residents and business save energy and money and decrease their impact on climate change. Increase opportunity for renewable energy procurement across the city.

NR 10 Evaluate and implement new waste management programs to divert construction and demolition, yard debris, solid, organics, hazardous and other waste from landfills.

NR 11 Renew commitment to *Atlanta's Climate Action Plan*.

NR 12 Continue education and outreach on resilience actions.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Urban Design

Design impacts us in many ways from accessibility of the public realm to quality of architecture. Atlantans should love their public spaces. Our streets make up the city's largest public space. Transforming Atlanta's streets to better serve people not cars is essential. Recommendations include investing in public space projects like Peachtree Shared Space, Jackson Street Bridge, and Five Points MARTA station redesign.

Goals

Streets
Transform Atlanta's streets to better serve pedestrians and cyclists.

Trails and Waterways
Leverage our waterways and trails to connect Atlantans to nature.

Public Spaces
Create vibrant public spaces designed for people.

Private Development
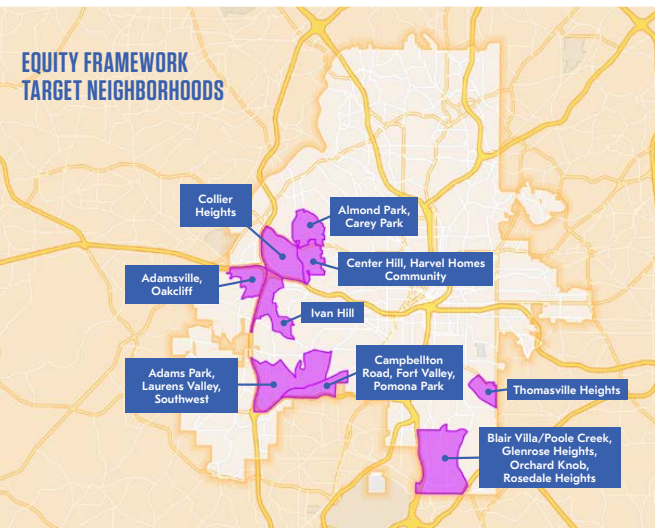Guide private development to contribute to the public realm.

Engagement and Equity
Expand engagement with Atlanta residents around urban design.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Urban Design Policies

UD 1   Leverage phased implementation to more quickly implement and test new ideas in the public realm.

UD 2   Integrate urban design considerations into the City's process for capital improvements.

UD 3   Invest in long-term public space improvements.

UD 4   Adjust the Placemaking Program to better focus on the creation of vibrant public spaces.

UD 5   Develop an approach for implementing *Atlanta City Design*'s nature spaces.

UD 6   Further develop the design concept, Design for Wildness, from *Atlanta City Design*.

UD 7   Design a cohesive trail network that connects Atlanta's communities.

UD 8   Implement a design review process for development projects.

UD 9   Focus on communities that have been historically and intentionally neglected.

UD 10   Provide pathways for residents to take ownership of public spaces in their communities.

UD 11   Leverage art as both an education and activation tool.

**UD 12**   Educate Atlantans on *Atlanta City Design* and showcases the City's ongoing work.

EQUITY FRAMEWORK
TARGET NEIGHBORHOODS

Collier Heights

Almond Park, Carey Park

Center Hill, Harvel Homes Community

Adamsville, Oakcliff

Ivan Hill

Adams Park, Laurens Valley, Southwest

Campbellton Road, Fort Valley, Pomona Park

Thomasville Heights

Blair Villa/Poole Creek, Glenrose Heights, Orchard Knob, Rosedale Heights

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Historic Preservation

Atlanta's history is built on the stories, cultures, memories and identities of the city's people and places. This element documents the City's most recent, comprehensive analysis to its historic preservation program Future Places Project. Recommendations include a host of actions to elevate the overall perception of historic preservation in the city and build a long-lasting dialogue with the community to better understand what is considered historic to Atlanta.

Goals
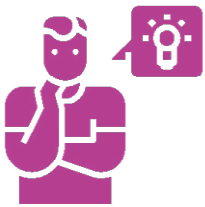
Perception
Determine the status and perception of the City's current historic preservation work.

Dialogue
Elevate the overall perception of historic preservation in the City and build a sustainable community dialogue.
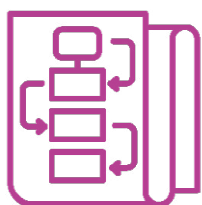
Redefine Historic
Understand and expand the definition of what is considered historic to Atlanta.

Learn
Learn from fellow Atlantans and from other cities.

Move Forward
Outline a path forward and make recommendations the Department of City Planning and other City agencies could consider for their historic preservation-related work.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Historic Preservation Policies

HP 1 Help people know the status and perception of the City's current historic preservation work.

HP 2 Help people understand and expand the definition of what is considered historic to Atlanta.

HP 3 Help people share and elevate the overall perception of historic preservation in the City and build a sustainable community dialogue.

HP 4 Help people learn more about ourselves and our city.

**HP 5** Recognize, keep, and protect what we value.

PLANNING ELEMENTS

Neighborhood Planning

Small Area and Neighborhood plans adopted since the 2016 CDP are documented in this update. These plans keep comprehensive development planning relevant as they identify neighborhood needs and make recommendations not directly addressed in the CDP. This element identifies the need to ensure the Neighborhood Planning Units (NPU) system responds to the future demands for equality and democratic decision-making. Recommendations include examining NPU boundaries in light of the latest Census, supporting online and in-person meetings after the pandemic, and conducting a study to identify inequities in the NPU system.

Goals
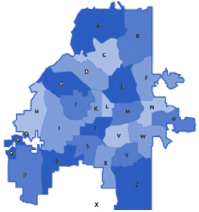
Comprehensive Community Outreach Plan
Ensure every Atlantan knows their opportunity to participate in community-level civic processes.

Expanded Education Program
Strengthen the system of community engagement by providing relevant education and information.

Resource and Technical Support
Provide resource and technical support necessary to promote the NPU system's growth and empower the NPUs to plan their communities.

Legislative Updates
Correct outdated legislation to improve engagement processes.

Policies

NPU 1   Ensure NPU boundaries and processes are updated regularly.

NPU 2   Instill the Department of City Planning's *Planning for Change* commitment in its support of the NPU system.

THE ROLE OF NPUs

Neighborhood Planning Units

Atlanta is comprised of over 240 unique neighborhoods, which are grouped in to 25 Neighborhood Planning Units, or NPUs. NPUs are citizen advisory councils that make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council on zoning, land use, and other planning-related matters. Mayor Maynard Jackson established the NPU system in 1974 to provide the opportunity for all residents to actively participate in comprehensive planning. Today, the NPU system is the official avenue for the City to inform residents—and for residents to recommend actions to the City—on matters affecting Atlanta's neighborhoods.

Plan A includes updated NPU Policies, which are statements of vision, goals, policies, and actions prepared by individual NPUs. NPU Policies identify priority issues and aspirations for future growth and development at the neighborhood level. The City considers NPU Policies in decisions over implementing various aspects to the CDP, particularly when changing future land use designations and preparing small area and neighborhood plans.

Plan A Phase 2 will take more than a year or two to complete and engaging with NPUs will be critical. You can learn more about how to get involved with your NPU at https://www.npuatlanta.org/.
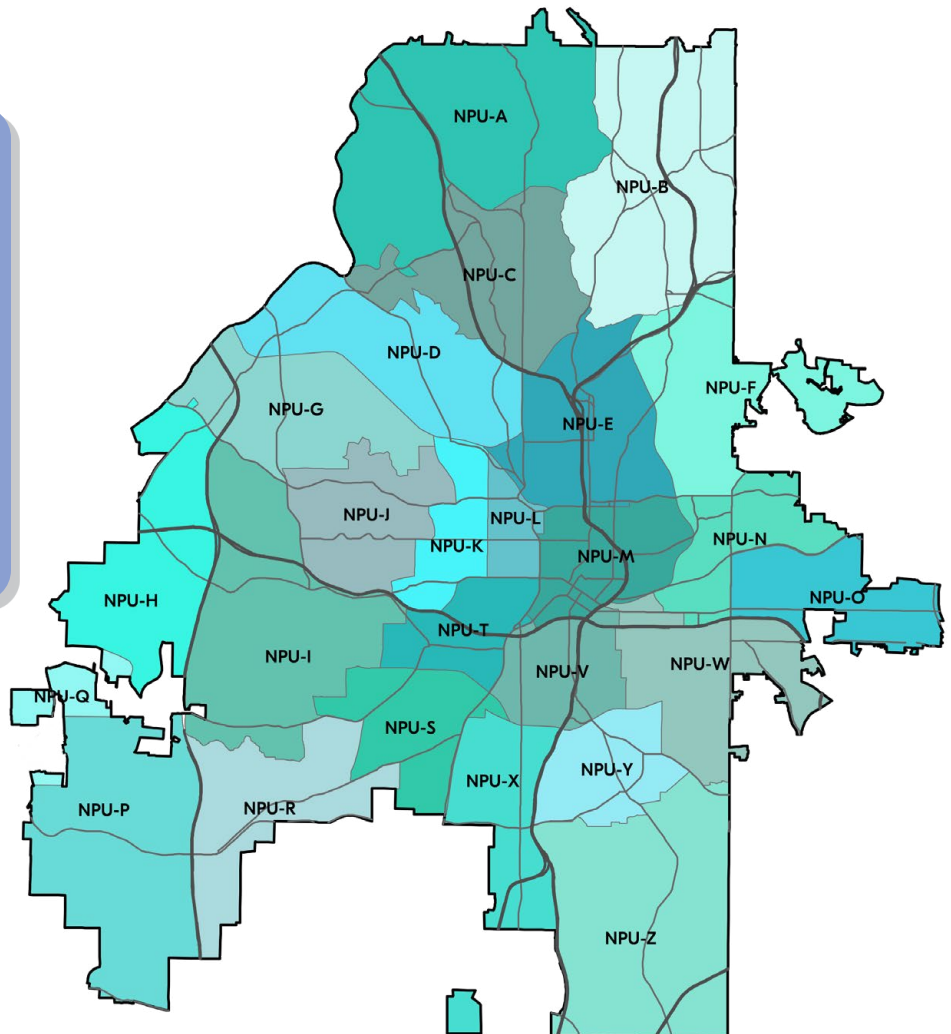
IMPLEMENTING ELEMENTS

Plan A includes 3 Implementing Elements.

1. **Community Work Program (CWP)** — outlines 650 actions carried over from the 2016 CDP and 200 new actions (based on *Plan A*'s policy actions). The Community Work Program is not meant to be the City's complete list of capital improvement projects, but it does include the proposed activities, initiatives, programs, legislation, and administrative changes to be put in place while steadily making progress to realizing our Community Vision and Goals over the next 5 years. Examples include adding sidewalks, improving roads, reforming the zoning ordinances, supporting affordable housing, assisting small businesses, and maintaining parks.

2. **Capital Improvements Element (CIE)** — lists projects that are eligible for impact fee funding (transportation, police, fire, and parks) over the next 5 years. *This element is prepared and adopted each year.*

3. **Report of Accomplishments** — gives a brief status update on progress implementing nearly 3,500 actions listed in the previous 2016 Community Work Program. This includes 580 actions proposed by the NPUs that will be reviewed and discussed in more detail during Phase 2 of *Plan A*.

ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Layers of Engagement for *Plan A*

Over the course of the past several years, the City encouraged participation to gather meaningful public input across a range of plans and initiatives—all of which inform *Plan A*. The Department of City Planning also convened broad and inclusive groups of government leaders, community members, and technical experts from the beginning of the comprehensive planning process.

Public Leadership Group (PLG) - The Public Leadership Group consists of elected officials and agency leadership accountable for the comprehensive development plan.

Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) - The Stakeholder Advisory Committee represents residents, community organizations, and other people who will live with the comprehensive development plan.
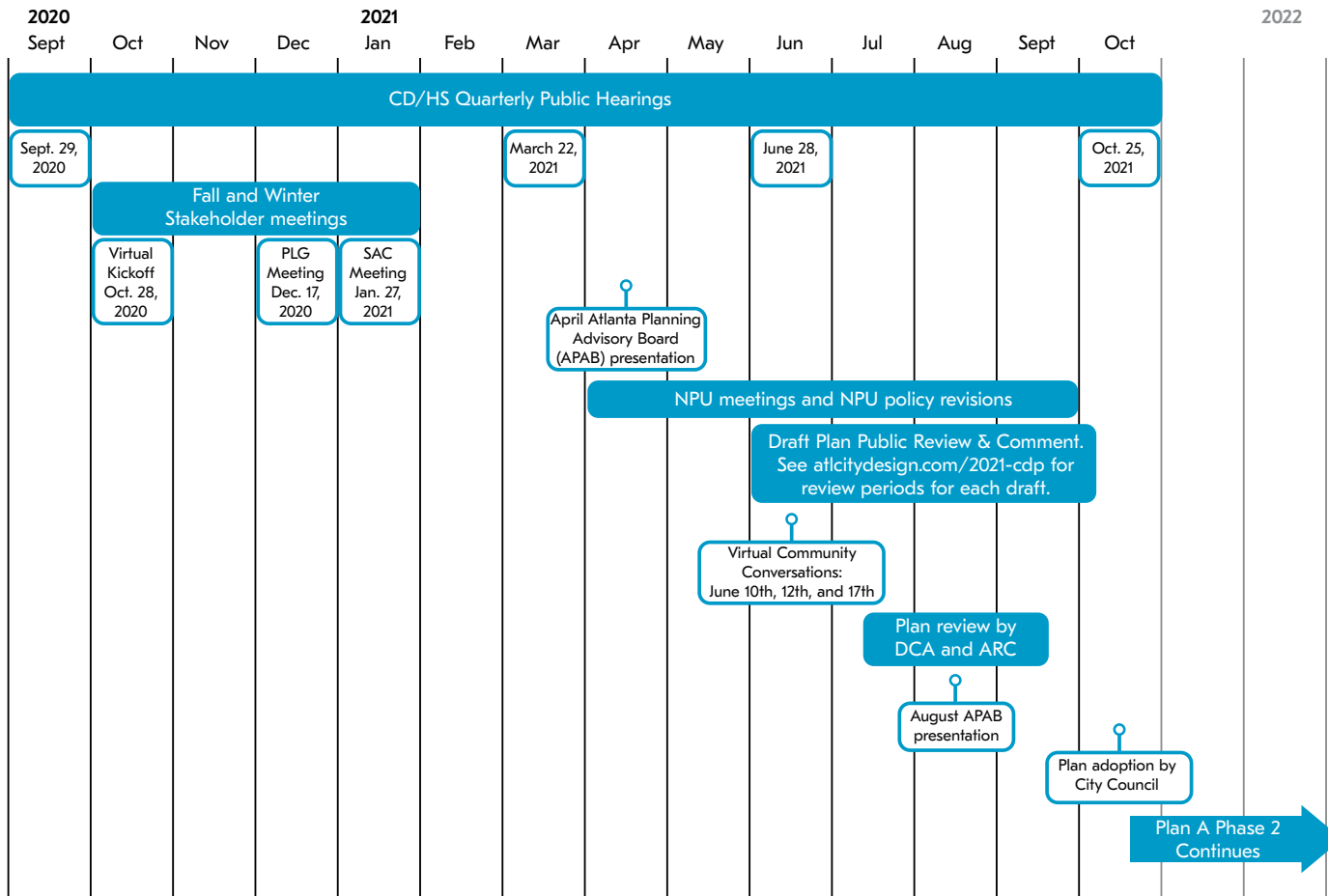
Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - The Technical Advisory Group is responsible for preparing the comprehensive development plan and is made up of City and local agency staff.

NPUs - NPUs are responsible for updating their policies to be included in each CDP update. The Department met with NPU leadership regularly to provide progress updates and support updating NPU policies.

General Public - Residents were invited to participate in several public meetings about the vision and priorities of the comprehensive plan. Additionally, their feedback was gathered during review and comment periods and incorporated into the final version of *Plan A*.

ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Plan A Engagement Timeline

| 2020 | | | | 2021 | | | | | | | | | | 2022 |

CD/HS Quarterly Public Hearings

Sept. 29, 2020

March 22, 2021

June 28, 2021

Oct. 25, 2021

Fall and Winter Stakeholder meetings

Virtual Kickoff Oct. 28, 2020

PLG Meeting Dec. 17, 2020

SAC Meeting Jan. 27, 2021

April Atlanta Planning Advisory Board (APAB) presentation

NPU meetings and NPU policy revisions

Draft Plan Public Review & Comment. See atlcitydesign.com/2021-cdp for review periods for each draft.

Virtual Community Conversations: June 10th, 12th, and 17th

Plan review by DCA and ARC

August APAB presentation

Plan adoption by City Council

Plan A Phase 2 Continues

Overview

Meetings with the leadership and committee groups, brought together nearly **250 people representing over 100 organizations** during the planning process to discuss community needs and opportunities and the challenges of outreach and engagement during the pandemic.

Plan A incorporates feedback from several people with different perspectives. Over 150 people participated at three virtual meetings in June 2021. The Department also received several questions and suggestions on drafts of *Plan A* during the **110 consecutive days of public review and comment**. During this period, the Department received approximately **1,800 voicemail and over 900 email comments**. The Department also met with a dozen NPUs in small group discussions. Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) also reviewed, commented, and approved *Plan A*.

NEXT STEPS

What to expect next for *Plan A*?

+ Further align *Plan A* with *Atlanta City Design*

+ Allow for an iterative comprehensive planning process with the ongoing Zoning Code Reform (see https://atlzoning.com/)

+ Overhaul the Land Use Planning Element — i.e., reconsider Growth and Conservation Design Areas, Character Areas, and Future Land Use policies and maps within the context of the Zoning Code Reform

+ Combine educational courses, workshops, and other traditional and non-traditional meeting forums at the city, NPU, and neighborhood levels

+ Conduct both virtual and in-person engagement

+ Greater instill *Atlanta City Design* values, context, and relations throughout all the elements

Photo Credit Aaron Coury
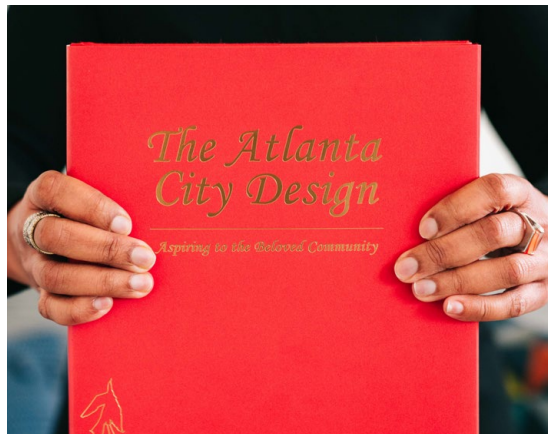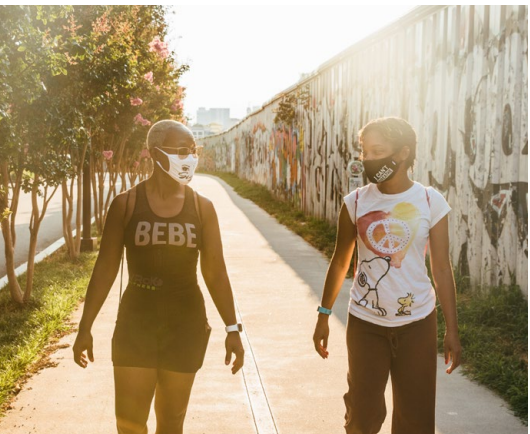
Have ideas for how Phase 2 could be better?

Let us know!

CONTACT

Department of City Planning

planA@atlantaga.gov

https://www.atlcitydesign.com/2021-cdp

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