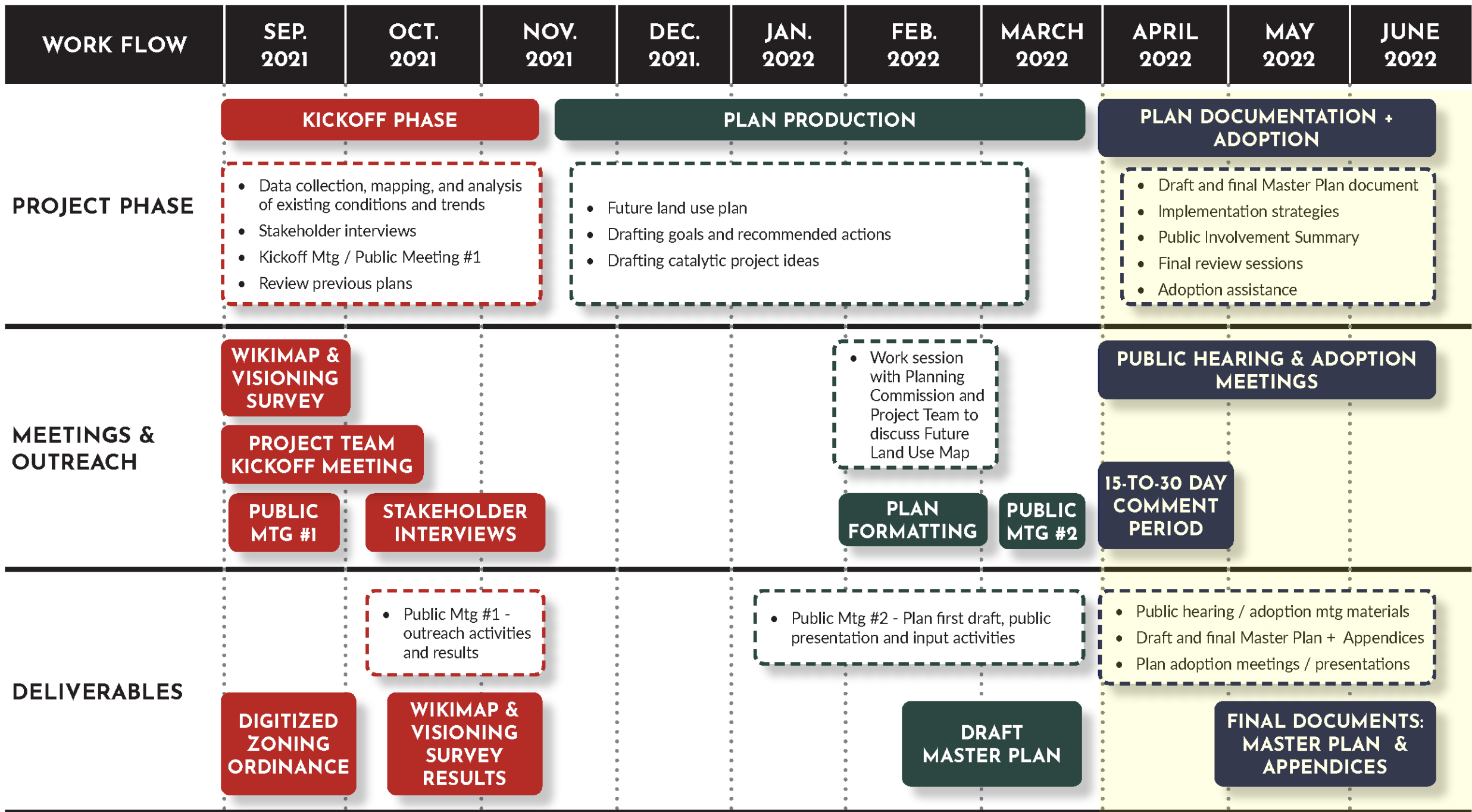


# **Morris Master Plan**

**Update from the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham  
Overview of the Master Plan**

**May 05, 2022**



# **Morris Master Plan**

## **Public Involvement Overview**



THE CITY OF MORRIS

Help us plan for the future!

City of Morris Master Plan

# Join us for a Community Meeting

AT MORRIS SENIOR CENTER



Presentation @ 5:45pm



Masks are required as recommended by CDC guidelines.

Thursday  
September 16

5:30pm to 7pm  
at Morris Senior Center  
601 Morris Majestic Rd,  
Morris, AL 35116

Morris is planning for its future, and you get a say in it! The City is creating its first ever Master Plan that will act as a policy document to guide future land use, infrastructure, and capital improvement decisions for years to come. Drop by any time to the Open House to share your thoughts at interactive table activities! For more information and for other ways to give your input online, please visit [www.MorrisMasterPlan.com](http://www.MorrisMasterPlan.com).

For more information visit: [www.MorrisMasterPlan.com](http://www.MorrisMasterPlan.com)

# Kickoff Open House

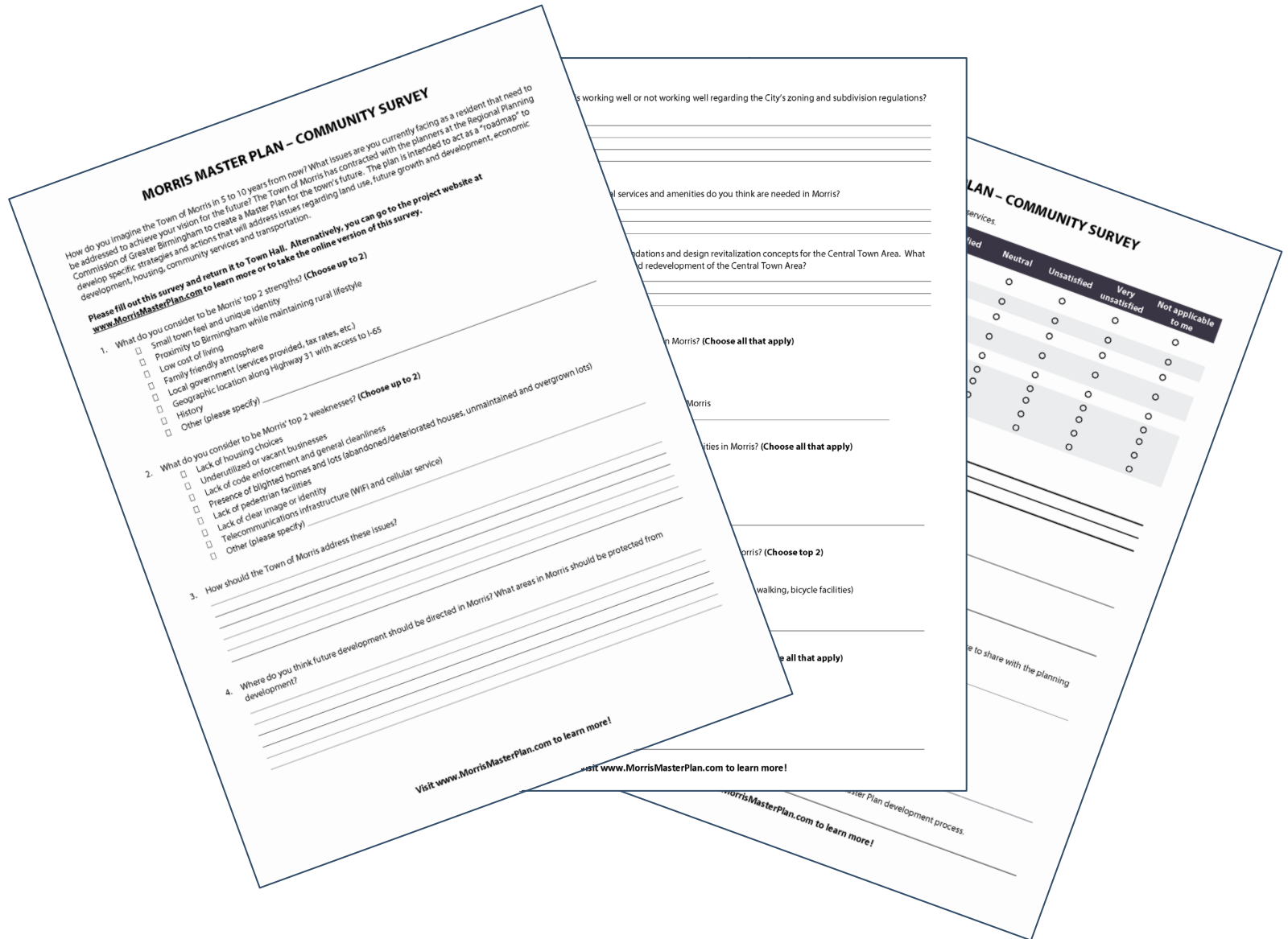
September 16, 2021

# 18

In-person Attendees

# 15

Virtual Meeting Attendees



**Visioning Survey**  
 Online and hard copies  
**228**  
 Respondents




# MORRIS MASTER PLAN




## INSTRUCTIONS

**1. Draw**  
your ideas on the map by clicking "add route" or "add point" below

**2. Describe**  
the point or route in the pop-up survey after drawing! The more detail the better!

## LEGEND

-  Desired Sidewalk
-  Traffic Issue
-  Asset

-  Opportunity
-  Needs Improvement
-  Other Comment

## HELP

For detailed instructions, see "About & Help"

For more help, contact: Hgarrison@rpcgb.org

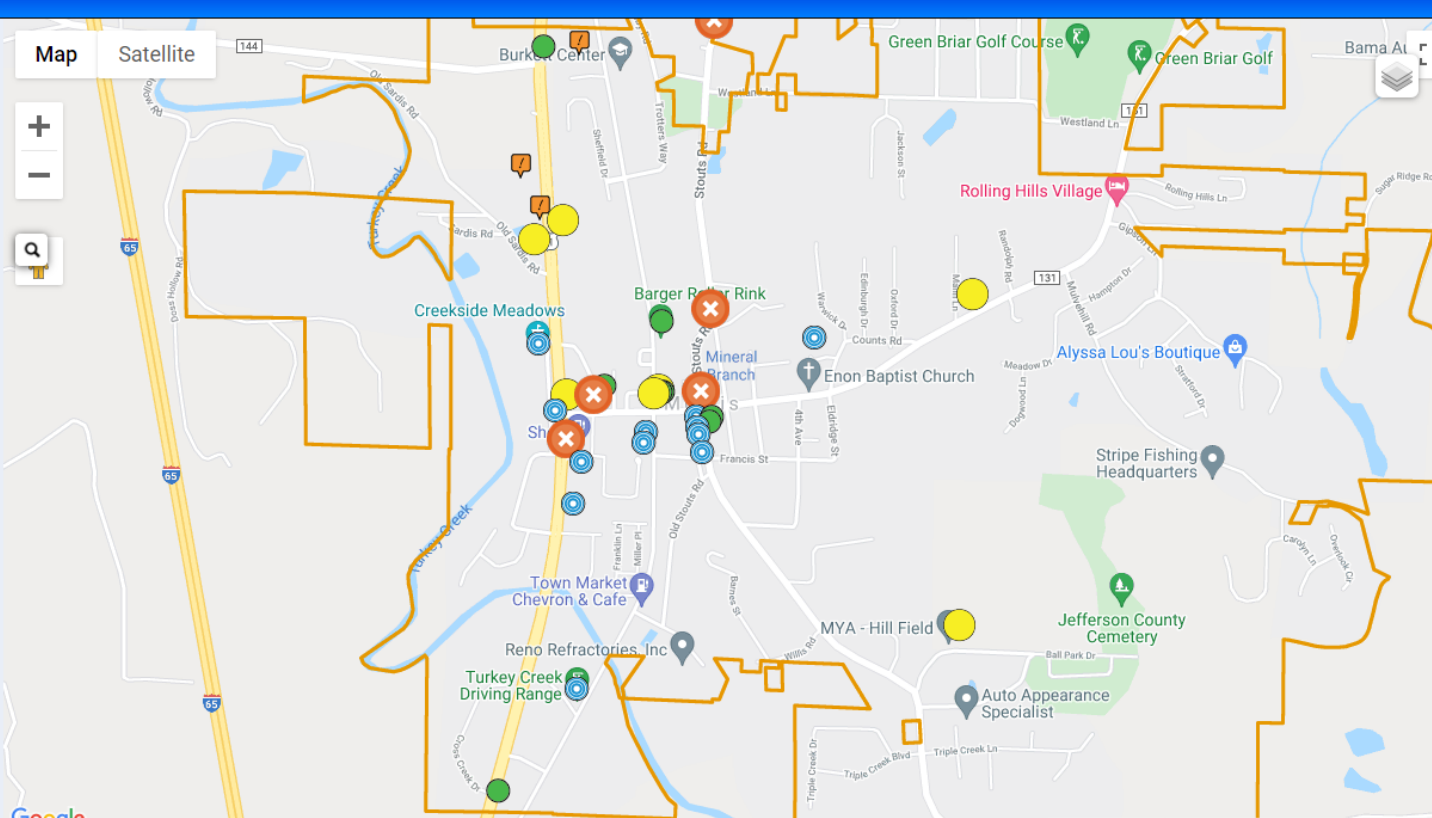
Morris Master Plan

About & Help

Add Routes

Add Points

Share 41 Guest



# Map Your Ideas Activity

Online Wikimap and  
Open House activity

# 37

Comments

# QUALITY OF LIFE

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING	WHAT'S NOT WORKING	WHAT'S NEEDED
<b>Central Town Area of Morris</b>			
<b>Community Facilities</b> (Town Hall, Senior Center, Volunteer Fire Department, etc.)			
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b> (Morris Town Park, Memorial Park, etc.)			
<b>Entertainment and Dining Options</b>			
<b>Access to Childcare and Healthcare</b>			
<b>Other</b> (Are there any quality of life issues that don't fit into the other categories?)			

# TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING	WHAT'S NOT WORKING	WHAT'S NEEDED
<b>Mobility Choices</b> (Where are new sidewalks and bicycle facilities needed?)			
<b>Street Maintenance</b> (Note areas where improvements are needed; bad pavement conditions, etc.)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pothole repair on Old Highway 31</li> </ul>
<b>Traffic Issues and Speeding Areas</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speeding on Glennwood Road from Ball Park Drive to Turkey Creed</li> <li>Speeding on Morris Sardis Road</li> <li>Drivers use Morris Sardis Road to bypass the signal at Morris Majestic Road and Highway 31, causing additional congestion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic control throughout the Town, including during commute hours and when schools begin and end</li> <li>Desire for traffic lights at 4-way stop on Morris Majestic Road</li> <li>Desire for right turn lane from Morris Majestic Road to Highway 31 North</li> </ul>
<b>Utilities / Internet Access</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved internet service down Glennwood Road to Town limits</li> </ul>

## Issues and Opportunities Matrix Activity

Open House activity

# 12

## Comments

MENU

**Thank you for sharing your vision for the future of Morris!**  
 From May to September, over 200 citizens filled out surveys, mapped their ideas, and attended Open House at the Senior Center. This input will be used by the planning team to develop the draft Plan's recommendations over the next few months.

**Click the button below to learn what residents had to say!**

**What happens next?**  
 Over the next few months, the planning team will draft the Comprehensive Plan based on the input shared. Expect another update in the New Year!

DOWNLOAD THE RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PHASE TO LEARN ABOUT RESIDENT'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE!

DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE PROJECT OVERVIEW PRESENTATION PRESENTED AT THE PUBLIC MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

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**THIS IS YOUR VISION FOR MORRIS**  
 The City of Morris Master Plan is a community-driven process to develop a Master Plan as a unifying vision for the future of Morris. This process will empower all Morris citizen to shape the vision and make recommendations that will guide the City's decisions for years to come.

**HOW DO I STAY INVOLVED?**  
 Click the link below to sign up for our project emails and stay up-to-date on public events and project progress.

STAY INVOLVED!

**Unique visitors to the  
 MorrisMasterPlan.com  
 project website**

**796**



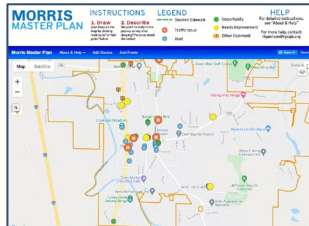
## Visioning Survey Results



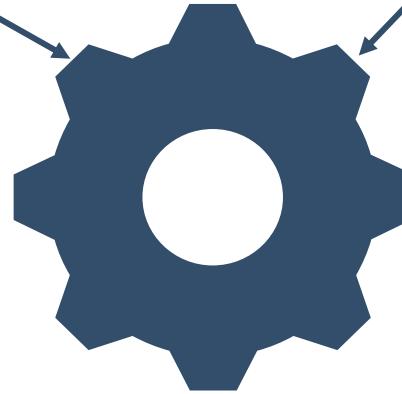
## Issues and Opportunities Matrix Activity

QUALITY OF LIFE			
ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING	WHAT'S NOT WORKING	WHAT'S NEEDED
Control Zone Area of Study			
Community Facilities			
Parks & Recreation			
Recreation, Shopping and Dining Opportunities			
Access to Childcare and Transportation Services			
Other			

## Map Your Ideas Activity



## Stakeholder Questionnaires (Planning Commission, City Council, and Morris Department Heads)



**Master Plan recommendations get crafted as a direct result of public input methods**

# Plan Structure

- Chapter 1 Plan Overview
- Chapter 2 Morris Today
- Chapter 3 Catalytic Project Ideas**
- Chapter 4 Future Land Use
- Chapter 5 Transportation & Infrastructure
- Chapter 6 Planning & Development Regulations
- Chapter 7 Livability & Public Services
- Chapter 8 Parks & Green Systems
- Chapter 9 Implementation

Draft April 2022



## Morris Master Plan

City of Morris



A comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Morris, intended to guide the City for the next 15 to 20 years

This project was supported by funding from the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB) and the Birmingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Building Communities Program. The contents of this document do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the Birmingham MPO or the RPCGB. For more information on this program, please visit <http://www.rpcgb.org> or call (205) 251-8139.

This plan was prepared as a cooperative effort of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), MPO and RPCGB as a requirement of Title 23 USC 134 and the current federal transportation bill. The contents of the plan do not necessarily reflect the official views or policies of the USDOT.

The contents of this Master Plan reflect the City of Morris' 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 Master Plan is not legally binding upon the City of Morris.

## **Statement on the inside cover page**

**Not a legally binding plan, but a policy guide**

# **Chapter 1**

## **Plan Overview**

- **Geographic location**
- **Background and need for the Comprehensive Plan**
- **Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan**
- **Difference between the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance**
- **Plan organization**
- **Summary of the public involvement process**
- **How to use the plan document**

# What is a Master Plan?

## Morris' road map for making long- and short-range policy decisions:

- Intended to guide future growth and redevelopment of the City (by guiding zoning decisions and public/private investments)
- Useful for making recommendations regarding community services, transportation, infrastructure, development regulations, livability and community character

**Master Plan:** long-term tool to guide zoning and subdivision decisions made by the City of Morris.

<b>Comprehensive Plan</b>	<b>Zoning Ordinance</b>
Guide for land use in the future	Regulates the use of the land in the present
Not a binding, legal document	Provides specific regulations...the law
General land use categories and locations (e.g. Rural Residential)	Zoning Districts (e.g. R-1 Single-Family District) with parcel specific regulations

**Table 1.2: Plan Organization**

Plan Chapters		Description
1	<b>Plan Overview</b>	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	<b>Morris Today</b>	This chapter briefly highlights existing conditions and trends in Morris. 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	<b>Catalytic Project Ideas</b>	This Chapter details 10 specific catalytic project ideas that are intended to connect the City's existing assets, enhance economic vitality, and direct new development opportunities.
4	<b>Future Land Use</b>	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	<b>Transportation &amp; Infrastructure</b>	This chapter provides goals and actions pertaining to the safety and efficiency of the existing transportation system, expanding the multi-modal transportation network and transportation infrastructure maintenance.
6	<b>Planning &amp; Development Regulations</b>	This chapter provides goals and actions pertaining to code enforcement and recommended revisions needed to the City's codes and ordinances.
7	<b>Livability &amp; Public Services</b>	This chapter provides guidance for adopting new codes and programs to encourage great places, a wide range of housing types, and to improve the condition of the City.
8	<b>Parks &amp; Green Systems</b>	This chapter provides goals and actions pertaining to expanding and enhancing recreational opportunities for residents and incorporating best practices for environmental site design and stormwater management in development.
9	<b>Implementation</b>	This chapter includes the detailed implementation matrix for the Plan's recommended goals and actions and describes lead partners that should help with implementing each of the actions.

# **Chapter 2**

## **Morris Today**

### **Key highlights regarding:**

- **Demographic and housing profile**
- **Employment and commuting profile**
- **Community facilities and services**
- **Existing zoning and land use trends**
- **Natural resources**
- **Transportation and infrastructure**



# Chapter 3

## Catalytic Project Ideas

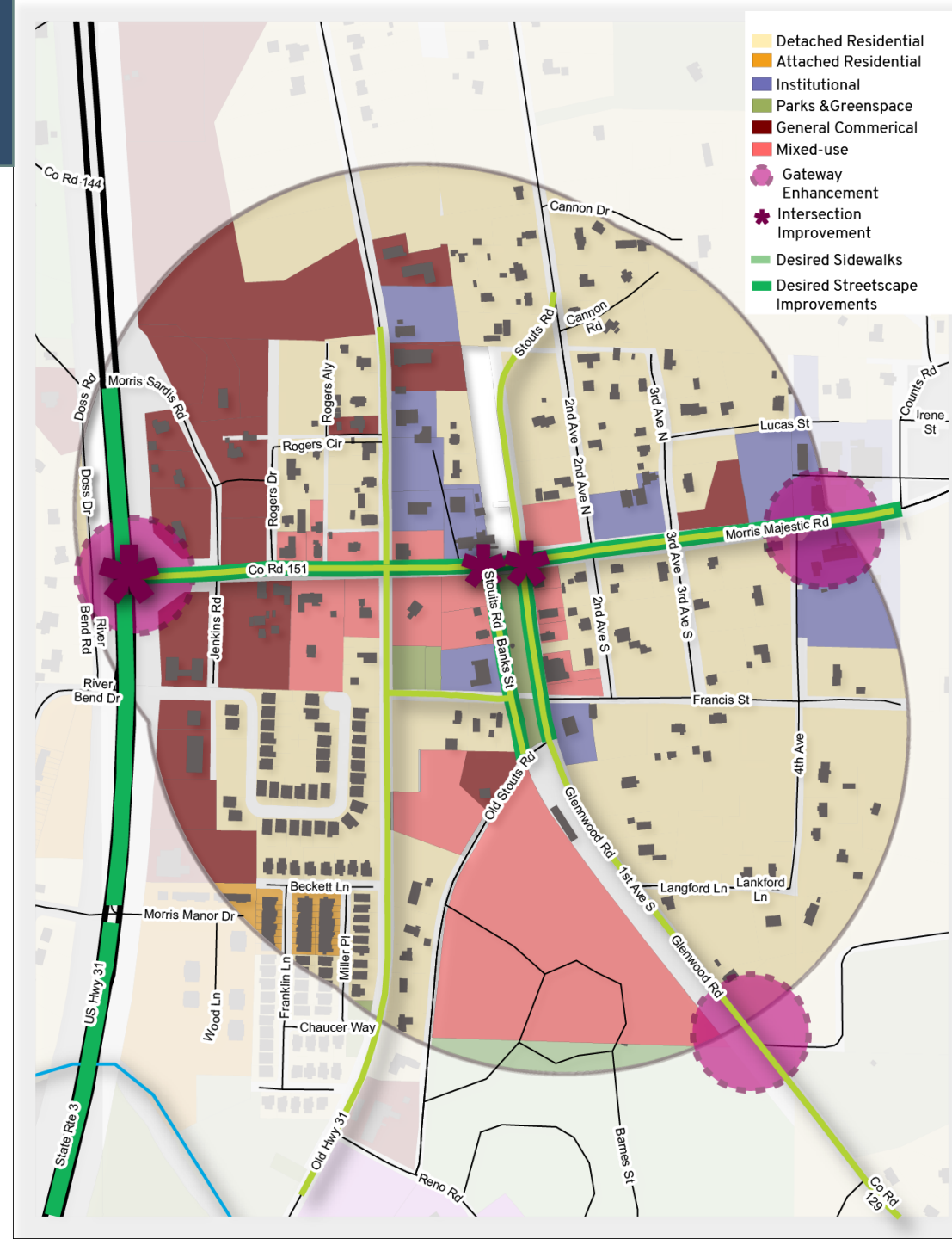
### Catalytic Project Ideas:

1. Create a Downtown Morris Master Plan to inspire and guide.
2. Commission a Gateway and Wayfinding Master Plan.
3. Enhance and expand Morris Town Park.
4. Improve the streetscape along U.S. Highway 31, Morris Majestic Road, Stouts Road and Glennwood Road.
5. Construct the Morris Inclusive Playground.
6. Explore the feasibility of constructing a greenway along Turkey Creek.
7. Explore options to relocate the Morris Street Department to another area of the city and to expand or relocate the Morris Senior Center.
8. Consider annexing the Kennamer properties into the city limits.
9. Establish a food truck court on a vacant lot in Downtown Morris.
10. Conduct an Advanced Planning, Programming and Local Engineering (APPLE) Study for potential roadway improvements along Morris Majestic Road from U.S. Highway 31 to Counts Road.

# Catalytic Project Ideas

10 redevelopment projects & programs designed to catalyze positive change:

- Identified through the public input process
- Selected for their...
  - Quality of life benefits
  - Economic impact
  - Potential to leverage additional development





# 1 Create a Downtown Morris Master Plan to inspire and guide.

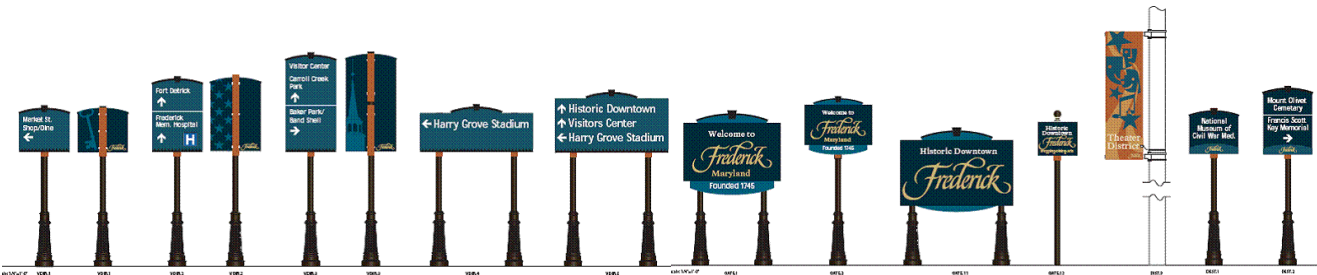
- The plan should be **conceptual** and **highly visual** and focus on:
    - Public realm improvements
    - Historic preservation
    - Quality of life
  - Economic development strategies
  - Supporting tourism
  - Sense of community
- It should include detailed **implementation strategies.**

## 2

# Commission a Gateway and Wayfinding Master Plan.

The plan should include:

- **Consistent, recognizable** wayfinding signage
- High graphic standards focused on **local identity and aesthetics (e.g., dogwood tree)**
- **Gateways and intersections** identified as “needing improvement:”
  - Morris Majestic Road near Green Briar Golf Course
  - Glennwood Road / Sam Thomas Road
  - Highway 31 North at city limits
  - Morris Majestic Road terminus at Highway 31





### 3

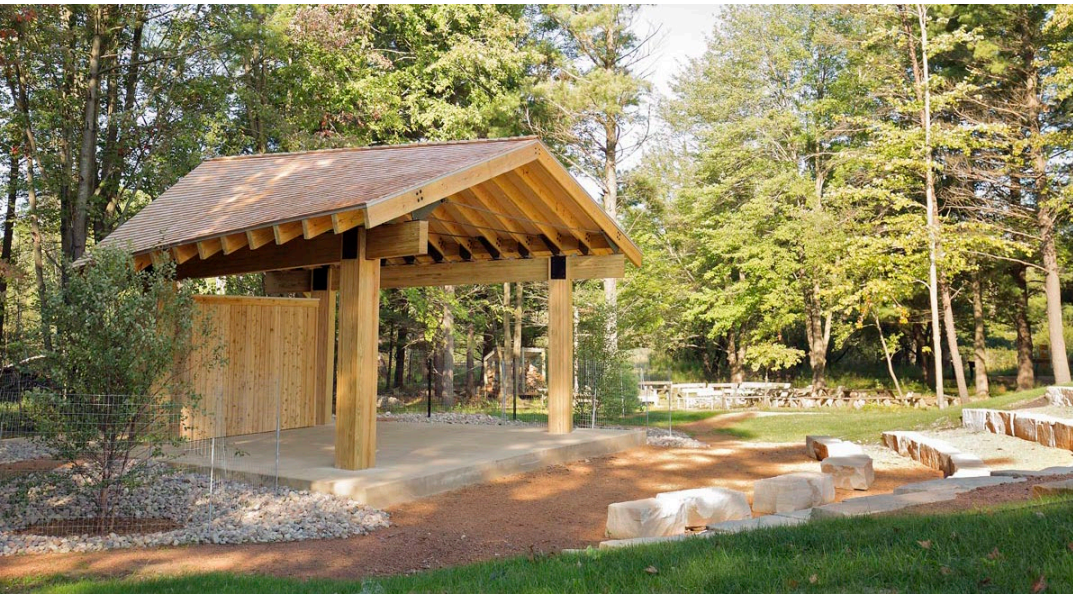
## Enhance and expand Morris Town Park.

Enhancements could include:

- Continued **maintenance**
- Refreshing **amenities** e.g., benches
- Updating **landscaping** and **signage**

Expansion:

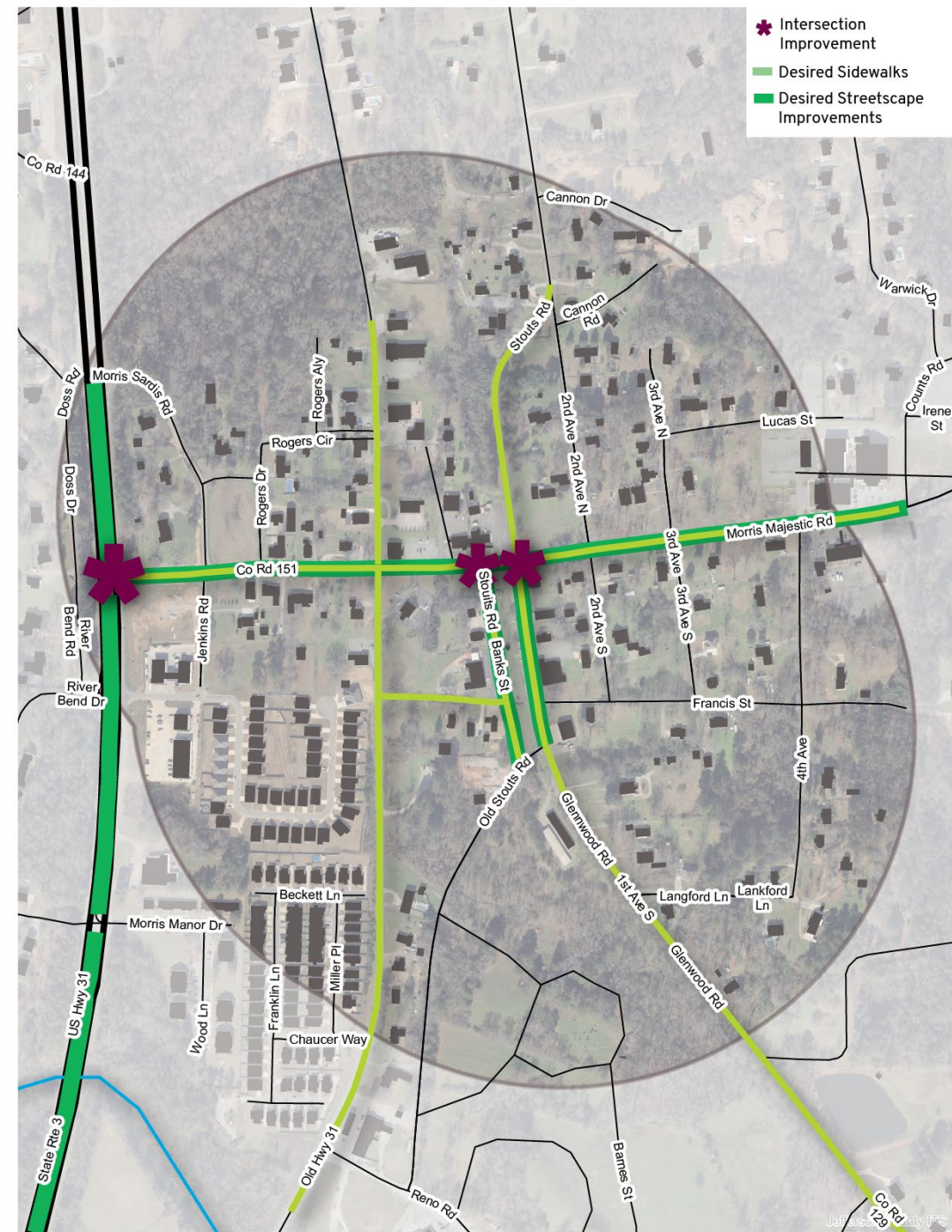
- North: multi-use **nature trail** for walkers and cyclists
- South: outdoor community **gathering area**, e.g., an amphitheater
- One continuous **linear park** with phased expansion



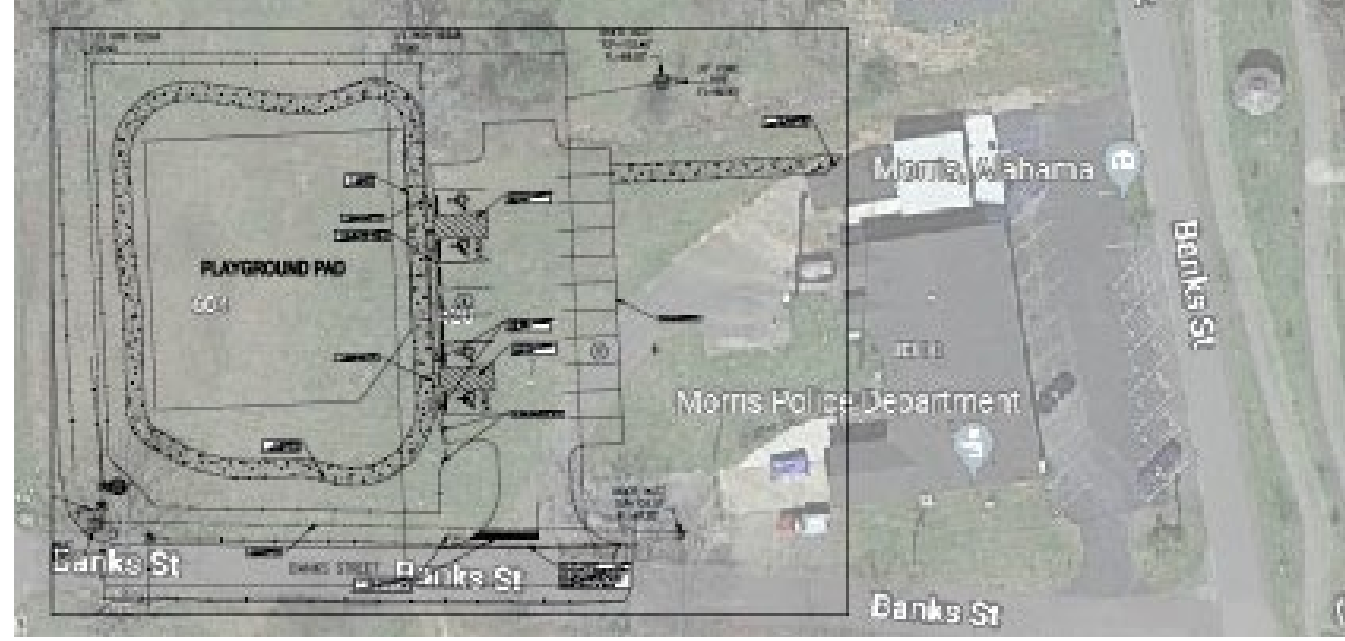
4

## Improve the streetscape along U.S. Highway 31, Morris Majestic Road, Stouts Road, and Glennwood Road.

- Sidewalks
- Curb and gutter
- Landscaping and street trees
- Lighting
- Safe crossings
- Repair/maintain on-street parking



# 5 Construct the Morris Inclusive Park.



Proposed Playground  
Town of Morris





6

## Explore the feasibility of constructing a greenway along Turkey Creek.

- Turkey Creek is **highly valued** by Morris residents.
- The greenway should tie into existing and proposed sidewalks to **expand the multimodal network** and connect to **downtown and sites of interest**.
- Advanced Planning, Programming and Local Engineering (APPLE) Study can help **determine project feasibility**.



7 Explore options to relocate the Morris Street Department to another area of the City and to expand or relocate the Morris Senior Center.

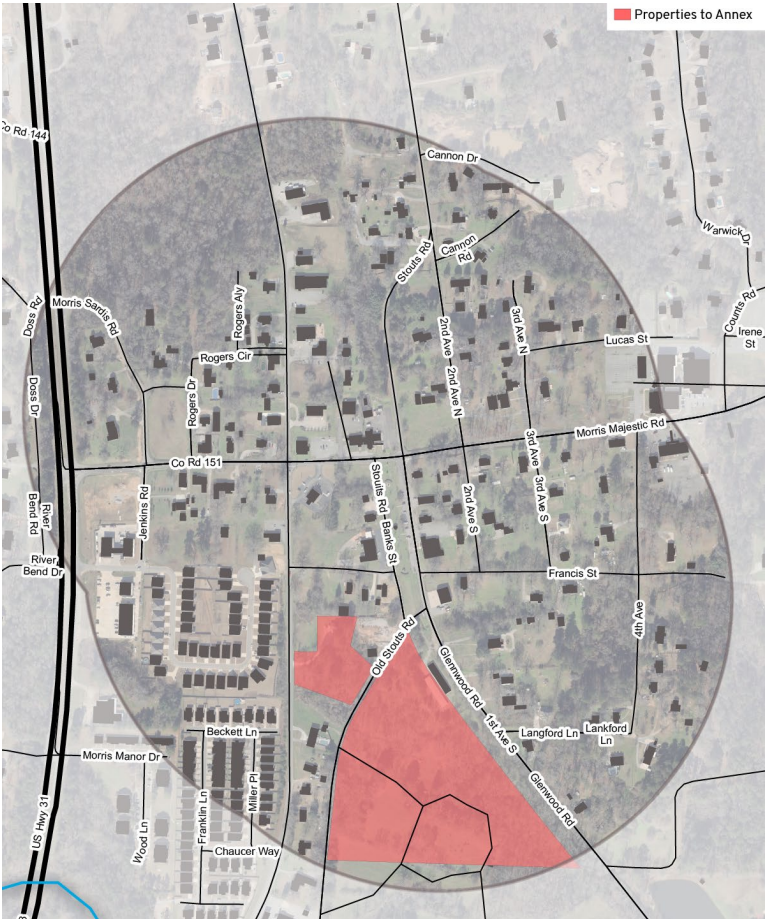
- There may be room for a **replacement Street Department building** on the same site.
- Explore the feasibility of **constructing a municipal complex** including City Hall, the Senior Center, and possibly public safety staff.
  - Benefits may include **cost savings** and **increased collaboration among staff**.





8

# Consider annexing the Kennamer properties into the city limits.



- Phase 1: Annexation and extension of the **sidewalk and trail network**.
- Phase 2: Transformation of the site into a **Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND)**, either led by a developer or as public-private partnership.

## 9 Establish a food truck court on a vacant lot in Downtown Morris.

- The lot can accommodate a **flexible mix of uses** in addition to food trucks.
- Food truck courts can include **permanent** and **semi-permanent improvements** such as:
  - Lighting and landscaping
  - Picnic tables, benches, and trash cans
  - Shade trees

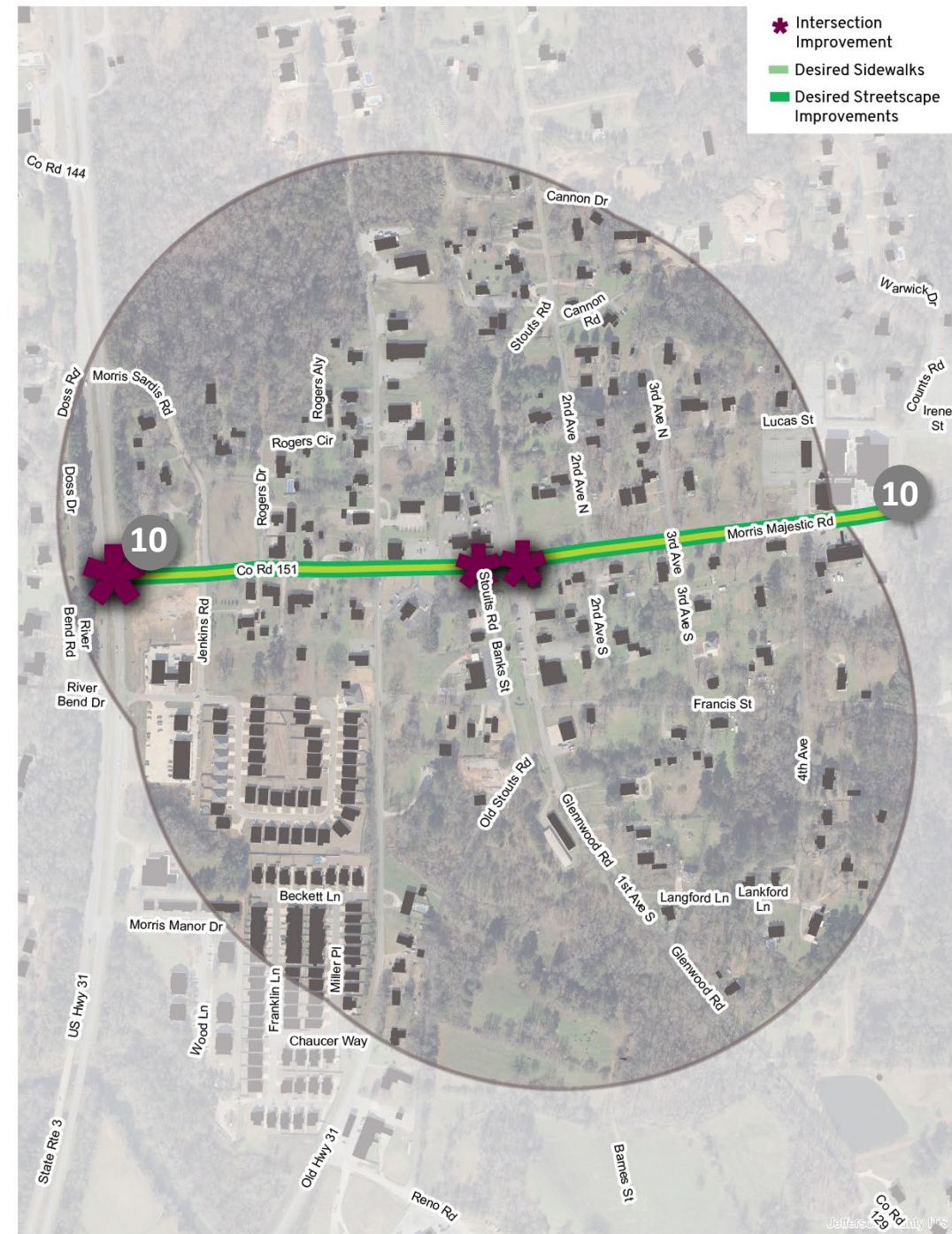




10

## Conduct an Advanced Planning, Programming and Local Engineering (APPLE) Study for potential roadway improvements along Morris Majestic Road from U.S. Highway 31 to Counts Road.

- Conclusions and recommendations based on **existing and future roadway conditions**.
- **Cost estimates** for recommended improvements.



# Chapter 4

## Future Land Use

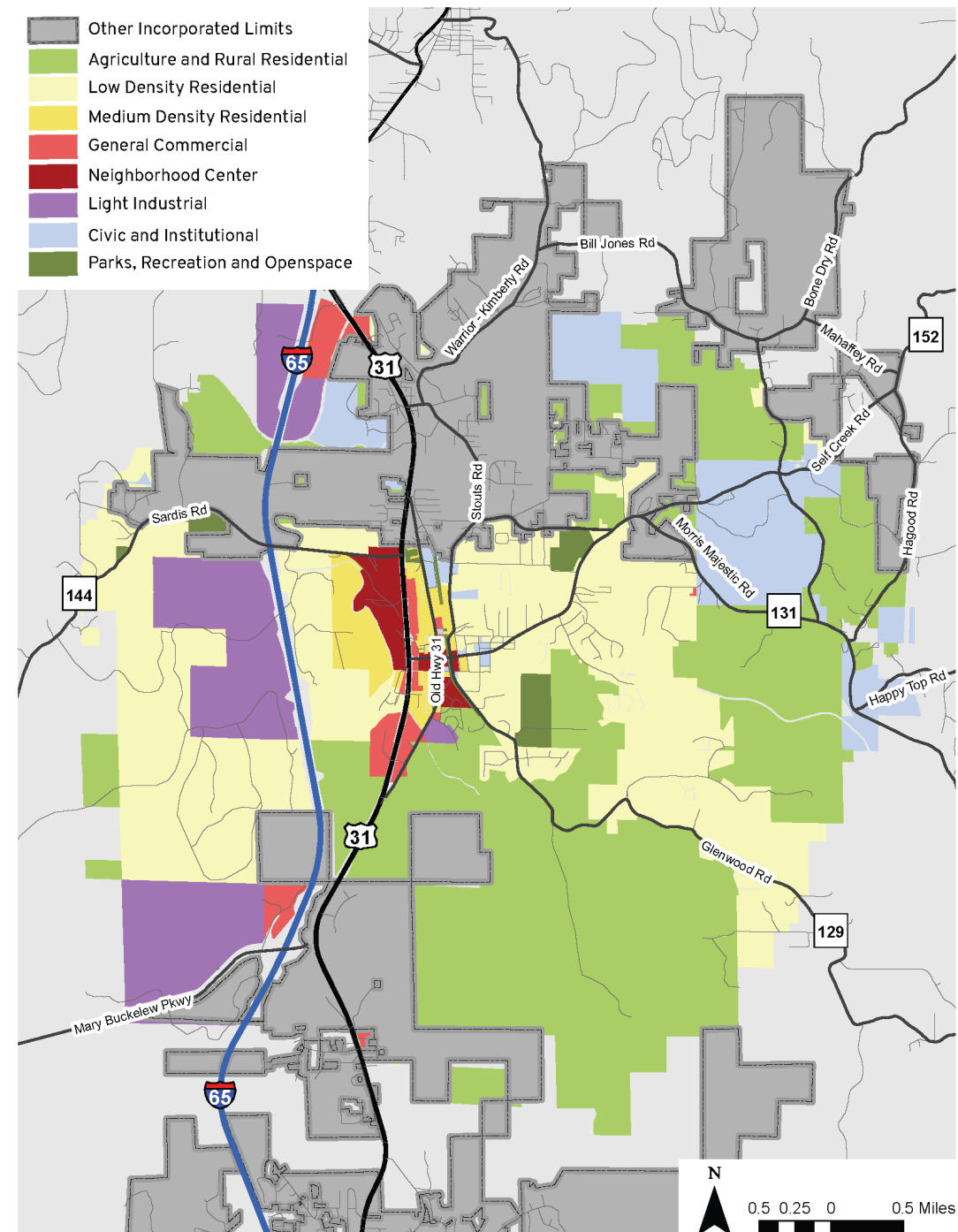
### Future Land Use Goals:

- **Goal #1: Encourage sustainable long-term development patterns.**
- **Goal #2: Encourage a wide range of housing choices.**

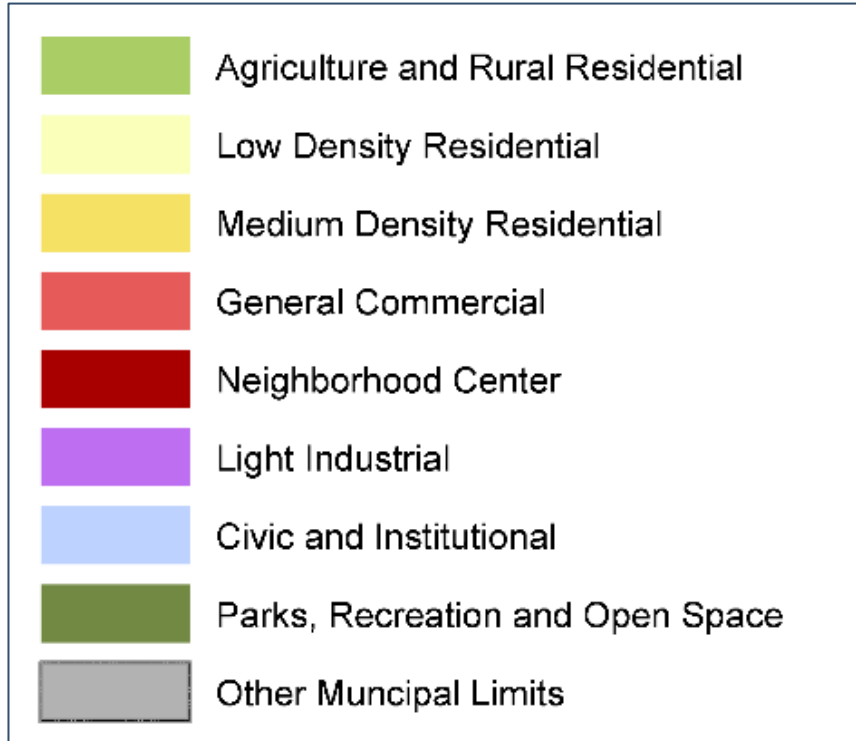
# What is a Future Land Use Map?

The Future Land Use Map is a long-range tool intended to **guide** decisions about future zoning, development and infrastructure investments.

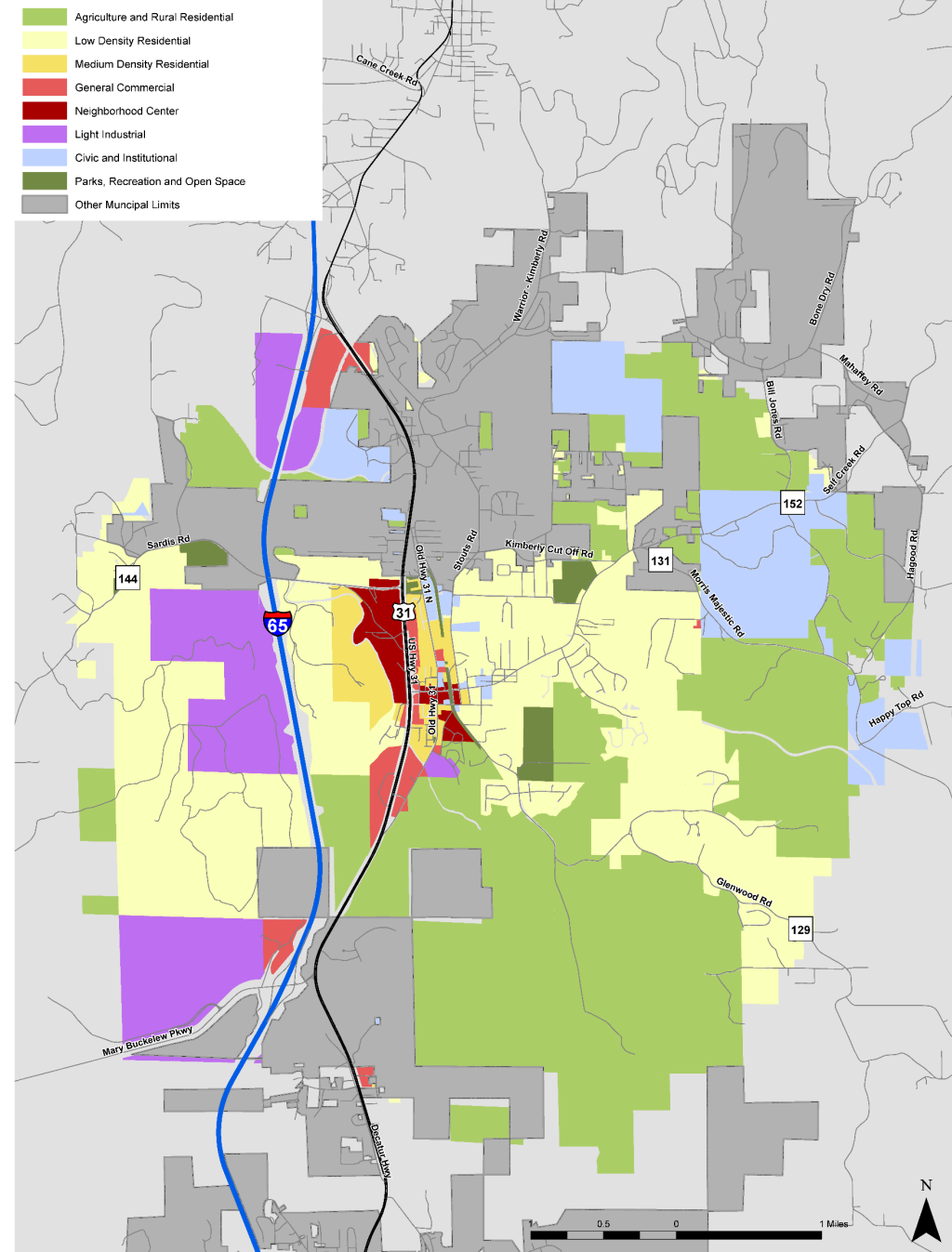
- It is **NOT** a zoning map.
- It does **NOT** change property rights allowed by zoning in place today.



# Future Land Use Map



Future Land Use Map - April 5, 2022



Related Zoning Districts	Agriculture and Rural Residential	Parks and Protected Open space	Low Density Residential	Medium Density Residential	General Commercial	Neighborhood Center	Institutional and Civic	Light Industrial
R-1		Secondary Use						
R-2								
R-3						Mobile homes are not permitted		
R-P								
R-R								
A-1								
INST-1								
INST-2								
CEM								
U-1								
U-P								
C-R								
C-1								
C-2								
C-3								
I-1								
I-2								
I-3								
MXD (NEW)		Secondary Use						

**Note: Multiple zoning categories align with each Future Land Use Category**



# Goal #1: Encourage sustainable long-term development patterns.



**Enhance and revitalize Downtown Morris as the heart of the community.**



**Preserve and protect existing residential and agricultural areas from adjacent development.**

## Goal #2: Encourage a wide range of housing choices.



**Encourage the development of a variety of housing types for households of all configurations.**



**Preserve rural areas throughout the City for estates and other large-lot residential developments.**

# **Chapter 5**

## **Transportation & Infrastructure**

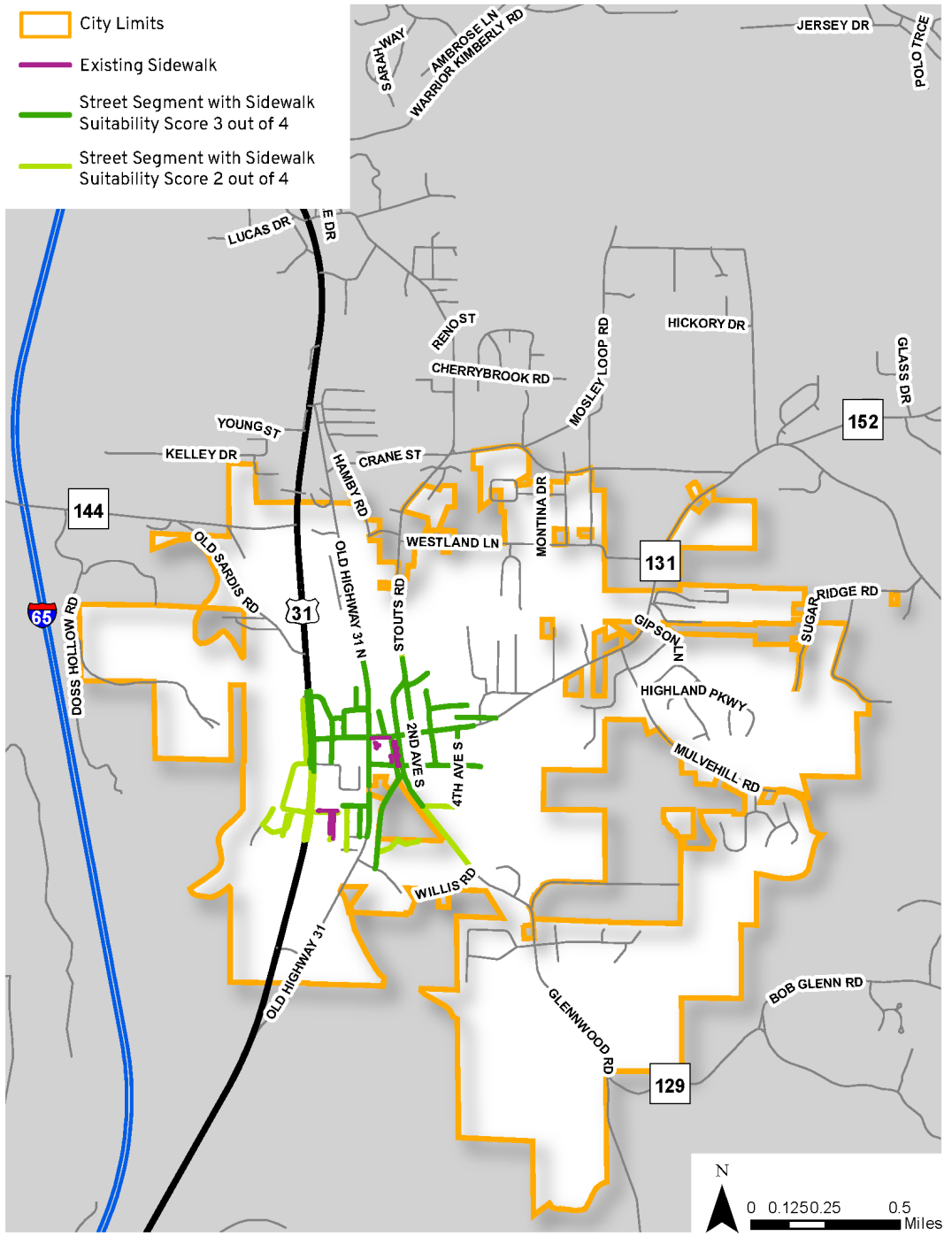
### **Transportation & Infrastructure Goals:**

- **Goal #1: Develop a multimodal transportation network with a wide range of mobility options.**
- **Goal #2: Preserve and enhance the safety and efficiency of the existing transportation system.**

# Goal #1: Develop a multimodal transportation network with a wide range of mobility options.



Expand pedestrian infrastructure to connect residents to the Downtown area and to other recreation and activity areas.



## Goal #2: Preserve and enhance the safety and efficiency of the existing transportation system.



**Dedicate municipal resources to the necessary maintenance of culverts and ditches.**



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

# **Chapter 6**

## **Planning & Development Regulations**

### **Planning & Development Regulations Goals:**

- **Goal #1:** Improve code enforcement efforts to address issues related to property maintenance and blight.
- **Goal #2:** Enhance the physical character and appearance of Morris.
- **Goal #3 – Goal #7:** Recommended Zoning Ordinance revisions.

# Goal #1: Improve code enforcement efforts to address issues related to property maintenance and blight.



**Consider hiring additional code inspectors and an enforcement officer to improve enforcement efforts and decrease permit and inspection times.**

- Devoting more resources to code enforcement can ensure Morris' improved codes are adhered to.

## Goal #2: Enhance the physical character and appearance of Morris.



Clearly define gateways into Morris through urban design and beautification enhancements.



Improve streetscaping along U.S. Highway 31, Morris Majestic Road, Stouts Road, and Banks Street.





## Goal #3 – Goal #7:

### Recommended Zoning Ordinance revisions.

- Goal #3: Recommended Zoning Ordinance revisions to promote a healthy mix of land uses.
- Goal #4: Recommended Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations revisions for Residential Development
- Goal #5: Recommended Zoning Ordinance revisions for parking and access standards.
- Goal #6: Recommended Zoning Ordinance revisions to permitted uses.
- Goal #7: Other recommended Zoning Ordinance revisions.

# **Chapter 7**

## **Livability & Public Services**

### **Livability & Public Services Goals:**

- **Goal #1: Provide efficient municipal services and adequate facilities that contributes to a better quality of life for the community.**
- **Goal #2: Preserve the safety and welfare of the community.**
- **Goal #3: Promote and encourage the continued development of commerce within Morris.**

# Goal #1: Provide efficient municipal services and adequate facilities that contributes to a better quality of life for the community.



Work with the Jefferson County Library Cooperative to establish mini-libraries, pop-up reading centers, and additional satellite services throughout Morris.



Consider creating a city-wide recycling program or a recycling drop-off area.

## Goal #2: Preserve the safety and welfare of the community.



**Ensure that the Morris Police Department and Fire Department have sufficient resources to respond to emergencies effectively.**



**Ensure that the City's Police Department fleet is well maintained and updated as necessary.**

## Goal #3: Promote and encourage the continued development of commerce within Morris.



**Recruit and attract additional commercial services and retail businesses to serve the needs of residents while increasing revenue.**



**Establish a community events organization to develop both community-interaction events as well as regional events that will promote the City.**

# **Chapter 8**

## **Parks & Green Systems**

### **Parks & Green Systems Goals:**

- **Goal #1: Expand and enhance recreational opportunities for residents.**
- **Goal #2: Restore and sustain water quality, natural habitats and groundwater by incorporating best practices for environmental site design and stormwater management in development.**

# Goal #1: Expand and enhance recreational opportunities for residents.



**Work with the Morris Youth Association to address upgrades needed at the Morris Ballpark.**

- Refresh and maintain playing surfaces
- Consider upgrading lighting
- Refurbish concession areas
- Consider updating landscaping
- Revitalize parking area

# Goal #1: Expand and enhance recreational opportunities for residents.



**Fund and construct the Morris Inclusive Playground (also listed as Catalytic Project Idea #5 in Chapter 3)**



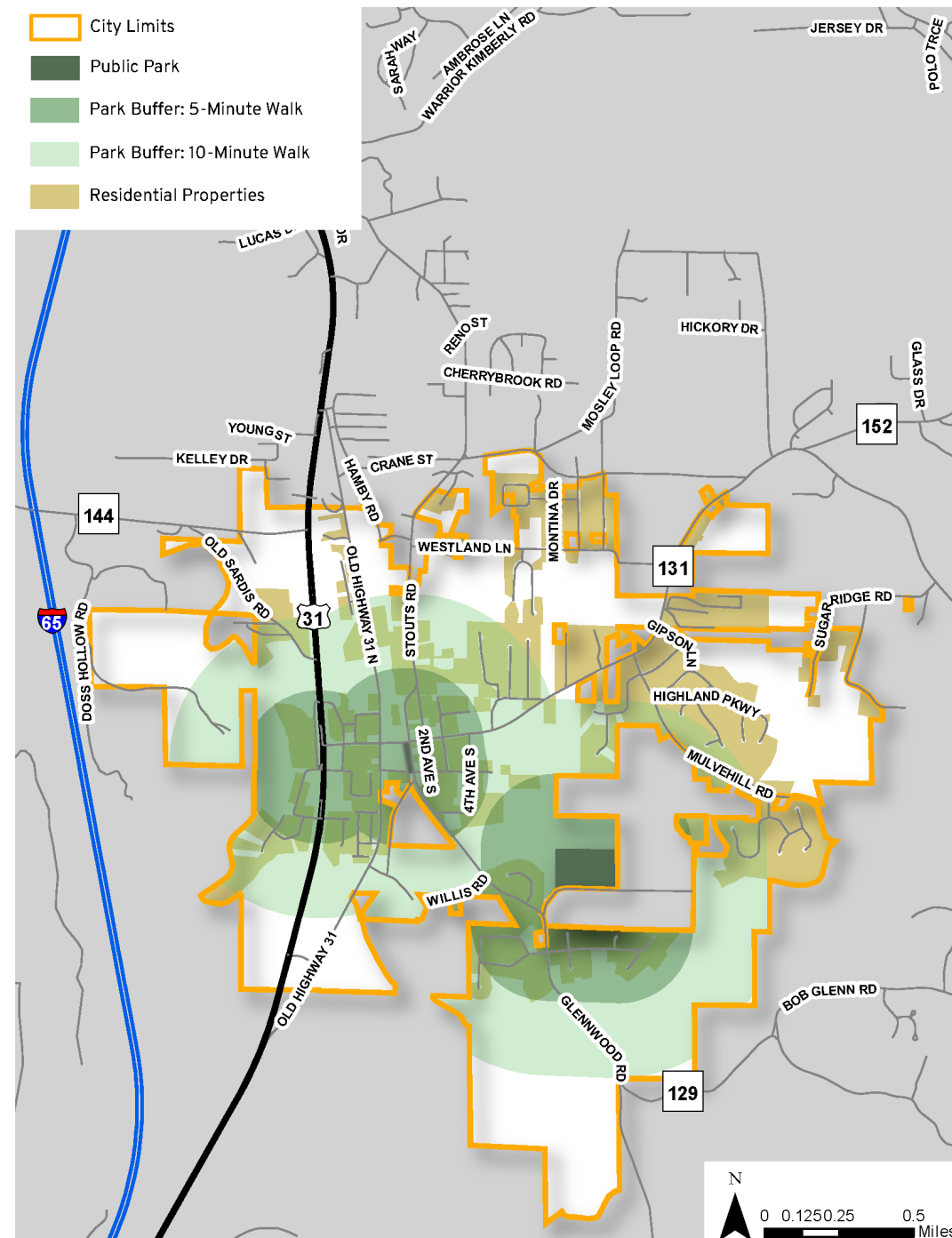
**Explore the feasibility of acquiring land along Turkey Creek for a greenway.**



# Goal #1: Expand and enhance recreational opportunities for residents.

Establish new parks in currently underserved areas.

32% of residents are outside of a 10-minute (1/2 mile) walk of a public park, and these homes are mainly in northern and eastern Morris.



# Goal #2: Restore and sustain water quality, natural habitats and groundwater by incorporating best practices for environmental site design and stormwater management in development.

## Create a system of Simple Green Streets.

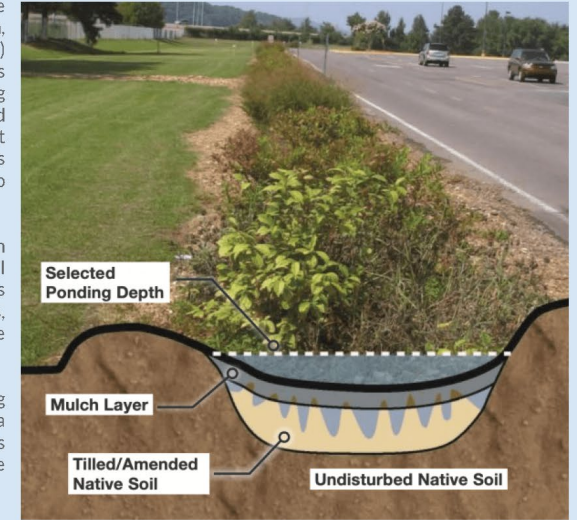
This can reduce stormwater flooding through enhancements to existing roadside ditches.

### DID YOU KNOW: SIMPLE GREEN STREETS

“Simple green streets” can be formed by creating bioswales in existing roadside drainage ditches. These bioswales, which are ditches or trenches planted with vegetation, are used as a Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management solution. This promotes on-site water infiltration, allowing the water to soak into the soil over time and reducing the volume and velocity of runoff. It also promotes evapotranspiration, which is the effort of evaporation and transpiration to remove water from the soil and vegetation.

Bioswales and their close cousin, rain gardens, are easier and less costly to install and maintain than most of the other solutions for stormwater runoff control. In Morris, they would fit well in many existing roadside stormwater ditches.

The image at right illustrates how an existing roadside ditch can be retrofitted to contain a bioswale, creating a simple green street. This greenery also adds beauty and softens the appearance of the street.



Images source: Alabama Cooperative Extension System



Images source: Lake County, IL

The image at left shows another example of a simple green street. This bioswale is planted with native flowers and grasses with deep roots. These plants are well-suited to a bioswale, where they will tolerate both wet and dry conditions.

Note how in both images, bioswales are used in place of a curb and gutter system. Simple green streets can be retrofitted into a system of stormwater ditches and do not require a curb and gutter system.

# **Chapter 9**

## **Implementation**

### **Chapter Elements:**

- **Implementation Matrix Tables**
- **Implementation Partners**
- **Grants and Funding Sources**

## Implementation Matrix should be used as a guide for how the goal and actions can be implemented and tracked:

- Action description and page number
- Priority
- Suggested implementation timeframe:
  - Short-term: 1-5 years
  - Long-term: more than 5 years
  - On-going
- Potential partner(s)

Chapter 5 – Transportation & Infrastructure					
#	Action	Page	Priority	Time Frame	Potential Partners
<b>Goal #1: Develop a multimodal transportation network with a wide range of mobility options.</b>					
1.1	Expand pedestrian infrastructure to connect residents to the Downtown area and to other recreation and activity areas.		High	Long-term	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board
1.2	Consider creating a sidewalk standard for all new residential development.		High	Short-term	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board
1.3	Provide safe accessible crosswalks at targeted intersections.		High	Short-term	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board, Streets Department
1.4	Adopt a Complete Streets Policy.		High	Short-term	Mayor and City Council
1.5	Raise awareness about the CommuteSmart program for Morris commuters.		Medium	On-going	Mayor and City Council
<b>Goal #2: Preserve and enhance the safety and efficiency of the existing transportation system.</b>					
2.1	Conduct an Advanced Planning, Programming and Local Engineering (APPLE) Study for potential roadway improvements along Morris Majestic Road from U.S. Highway 31 to Counts Road.		High	Short-term	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board
2.2	Dedicate municipal resources to the necessary maintenance of culverts and ditches.		High	On-going	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board, Street Department
2.3	Encourage the Morris Police Department to increase speeding enforcement in problem speeding areas.		Medium	On-going	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board
2.4	Conduct a local street needs assessment to create a prioritized list of improvements and consider the use of a pavement management program.		High	On-going	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board, Street Department
2.5	Develop a traffic calming policy to reduce speeding in residential areas using context-appropriate measures.		High	Short-term	Mayor and City Council, Planning and Zoning Board

## Grants and Other Funding Sources by Topic

This section is meant to jump-start a discussion of potential funding sources that will assist with implementation of this Comprehensive Plan update and move the City of Morris closer to implementing its vision for the future.

### Transportation & Infrastructure

#### Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides funding for programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. The total amount of Federal participating funding for a particular project (or project phase if part of a large multi-phased project) application is limited to \$800,000; (\$640,000 Federal and \$160,000 local match). The total project estimated costs may exceed the \$800,000 limit, but any amounts in excess of the limit will be the responsibility of the sponsor and should be shown as such. Sponsors that currently have an active TAP project will not be eligible to submit another application for funding consideration until the awarded project has been authorized and let to contract.

For more information, go to <https://www.rpcgb.org/transportation-alternatives-program-tap>.

#### Transportation Project Feasibility Studies (APPLE)

Advanced Planning, Programming and Logical Engineering (APPLE) is a program which funds transportation project feasibility studies designed to educate local governments about the project development process, assist them in their decision making process, and provide resources to help develop and advance transportation projects. This program is intended to provide information to decision makers about whether or not a project is technically and financially feasible by aiding local government in clearly defining transportation problems, articulating a project's purpose and need, and clearly defining a project's scope. It also assists local governments to better understand the potential environmental challenges, benefits, and burdens.

For more information, go to <https://www.rpcgb.org/transportation-project-feasibility-studies-apple>.

### Planning & Development Regulations

#### Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

This program is run by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered in Alabama by ADECA. CDBG offers several grants to non-entitlement communities (those not receiving funds from HUD) that meet applicable thresholds. All projects must meet one of the three national objectives: benefits at least 51% LMI persons, aid in prevention or clearance of slum and blight, or meet an urgent need.

- **Competitive Fund:** With a population less than 3,000, Morris qualifies in the Small City category. Funds may be spent on water and sewer extensions and rehabilitation, housing rehabilitation, neighborhood and downtown revitalization, and street and draining improvements. Applicants are scored based on several competitive factors including community need, cost efficiency, appropriateness and impact. Applications deadlines are announced during the annual workshop in the first quarter of the year. Funding for Small Cities is up to \$350,000.
- **Community Enhancement Fund:** for projects that address quality of life issues. Funds may be spent on fire protection, senior citizens centers, community centers, boys and girls clubs, and recreational facilities. Application deadlines are announced during the annual workshop in the first quarter of the year. Funding is up to \$250,000.
- **Planning Fund:** allows communities to develop community-wide comprehensive plans and downtown revitalization plans. Funds may be spent on comprehensive plans, downtown revitalization plans, and similar plans. Funding varies.
- **Economic Development Fund:** this infrastructure fund supports the creation or retention of jobs. Applicants for ED assistance should have a commitment from the business to create or retain 15 or more jobs. The business should fall within the SIC codes 20-39 or provide a significant economic benefit, and projects must not include intrastate relocation. This program is available on a continuous basis, and funds may be spent on water, sewer, and road improvements and rail spurs. Funding is up to \$200,000, with a minimum 20% local match.

For more information, go to <https://adeca.alabama.gov/cdbg/>.

#### HOME Investment Partnerships Program

HOME is the largest federal block grant to state and local governments designed exclusively to create affordable housing for low-income households. HOME provides grants to fund a wide range of activities to create and increase access to affordable housing. Funds may be spent on building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership, and providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. States, counties, local units of government, and coalitions with nonprofits may apply. Funding is formula-based and requires a 25% local match.

For more information, go to [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/home](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/home).

#### Alabama Power Foundation Grants

The Alabama Power Foundation offers several small grant programs focused on livability and public services.

- **Gateway:** intended to unlock the economic and cultural value within our communities by helping our towns invite new visitors, new industries, and new neighbors to their little part of our great state. Local units of government may apply. Funds may be spent on signage to enhance community aesthetics, maintain civic pride, and assist with event promotion and economic impact, and grants are typically up to \$2,500.
- **Elevate:** empowers nonprofits by funding community-centered projects, helping them expand their impact and address some of the community's most pressing needs. Eligible nonprofits may apply, and funding is up to \$10,000.

For more information, go to <https://powerofgood.com/grants/>.

#### Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit

This program provides tax credits for substantial preservation activities for historic, federally-listed income-producing structures. Owners of qualifying federally-listed buildings may apply, and funding is in the form of a tax credit up to 20% of project cost.

For more information, go to <https://ahc.alabama.gov/federaltaxcredits.aspx>.

#### Alabama Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit

This program provides tax credits for substantial preservation activities for qualifying historic buildings, including private homes and commercial structures. Private homeowners and owners of commercial properties may apply, if property is federally listed (or

eligible for listing) and at least 60 years old. Funding is in the form of a tax credit up to 25% of project cost.

For more information, go to <https://ahc.alabama.gov/alabamarehabtaxcredits.aspx>.

### Livability & Public Services

#### Tourism Department Community Grant

Started in 2020, this grant program provides assistance to municipal and nonprofit Alabama organizations promoting travel and vacation business to Alabama. Possible uses include brochures, tourism promotion, advertising, websites, and apps. Funding is up to \$2,500 or \$5,000 depending on the events. Grants are on a per-event reimbursement basis.

For more information, go to <https://tourism.alabama.gov/forms/matching-grants/>.

#### Alabama Broadband Accessibility Fund

The Broadband Accessibility Fund provides grants for service providers to supply high-speed Internet services in unincorporated areas or communities with 25,000 people or fewer. Grant funding varies, but generally covers a maximum of 20% of the project cost.

For more information, go to <https://adeca.alabama.gov/broadband/>.

#### Arts in Education (AIE) Grants

The Alabama State Council on the Arts funds two Arts in Education (AIE) grants. The AIE Curriculum-Based Project Grant provides support for specific projects that advance the goal of the arts as an essential component of PreK-12 education. Funds may be spent on in-school classes, workshops, consultants, guest artists, exhibits, and/or artist residencies. The AIE Enhancement Grant provides support to schools and organizations engaging in arts exposure and arts enrichment activities. Funds may be spent on performances, field trips, or professional development workshops. Funding for both grants varies, and applications are due throughout the school year depending on the semester for which funds are requested. Qualifying schools and arts organizations may apply. Both programs require matching funds.

For more information, go to <https://arts.alabama.gov/#resources>.

# **Morris Master Plan**

**Tonight's Activity & Next Steps**

# Tonight's Activity

- Using the matrix on the table, tell us what your priorities are by ranking each action on a scale of 1 to 3, with 3 indicating that it is the greatest priority.
- Take our Regional Transportation Plan Survey


FUTURE LAND USE		
HELP US PRIORITIZE THE GOALS AND ACTIONS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	RANK ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 3, WITH 3 INDICATING THE GREATEST NEED	COMMENTS
GOAL #1: ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS.		
Enhance and revitalize Downtown Morris as the heart of the community.		
Encourage mixed-use development in the Downtown area and along Morris Majestic Road.		
Ensure future developments improve pedestrian, bicyclist and vehicular connectivity.		
Encourage and incentive infill development and redevelopment.		
Concentrate commercial development around major intersections and discourage additional highway strip development.		
Preserve and protect existing residential and agricultural areas from adjacent development.		
Allow new development in undeveloped areas only when adequate infrastructure and public facilities are in place to accommodate growth and then only at a context and scale appropriate to the locale.		
Adopt appropriate policies and regulations to protect prime farmlands, steep slopes, waterways, and scenic areas from inadvertent damage due to future development / construction.		

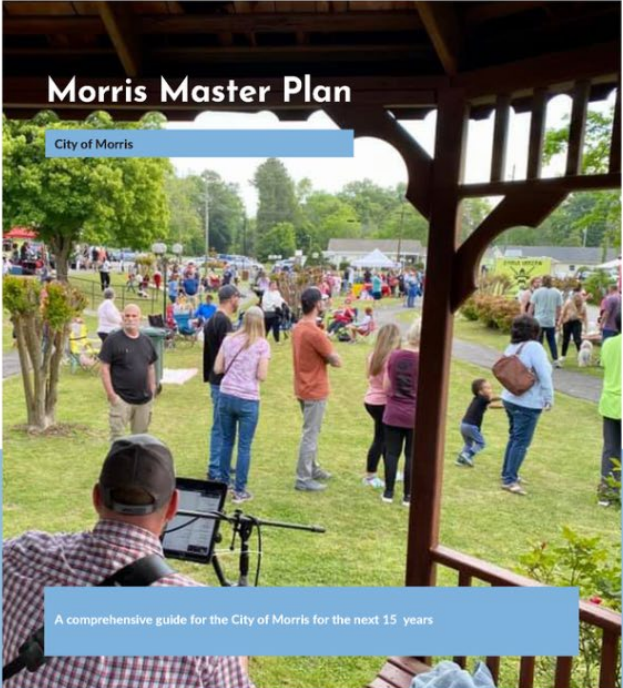
# Next Steps Toward Plan Adoption

Submit comments and feedback to the RPC

Use the project website [www.MorrisMasterPlan.com/documents](http://www.MorrisMasterPlan.com/documents) or email comments to [mhines@rpcgb.org](mailto:mhines@rpcgb.org)

DRAFT May 2022





**Morris Master Plan**

City of Morris

A comprehensive guide for the City of Morris for the next 15 years

## Review and Comment on the Morris Master Plan!

The Master Plan provides a framework and a methodology for converting the community's vision into a sustainable reality. The Draft Plan contains 9 Chapters including:

1. Plan Overview
2. Morris Today
3. Catalytic Project Ideas
4. Future Land Use
5. Transportation and Infrastructure
6. Planning and Development Regulations
7. Livability and Public Services
8. Parks and Green Systems
9. Implementation

Now that it is written, we need your help! Use the form below to submit comments to the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham by May 25, 2022. Have more than a few comments? Submit them via email to [mhines@rpcgb.org](mailto:mhines@rpcgb.org).

Name

First  Last

*\* Indicates required field*

Email \*

Page # \*

Section, Goal #, or Action# \*

Comment \*



# Next Steps Toward Plan Adoption



- **Planning and Zoning Board will hold a public hearing regarding adoption of the Master Plan**
  - Note: the Planning Commission is the body that *adopts* the Plan, and the Council is the body that *endorses* the Plan
- **Morris City Council will vote on a resolution to endorse the Plan**

# **Morris** Master Plan

**Maria Hines**

**Project Manager and Senior Planner**

**(205) 264-8445**

**[mhines@rpcgb.org](mailto:mhines@rpcgb.org)**