

Stakeholder
Committee
Kick-Off Meeting
February 25, 2026
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Virtual

Goebel Park Stakeholder Committee Virtual Kick-Off Meeting Minutes

Goebel Park Master Plan ▪ Job # 8443.00

Introductions

City staff and project consultants opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and introducing the Goebel Park Master Plan process. The stakeholder committee will serve as an advisory group to help guide the planning process and provide community perspective.

- Greg Stacy, Elizabeth Wetzel – City of Covington
- Eric Anderson, Abby Stainfield, Helen Davidoski – KZF Design

Stakeholder committee members introduced themselves and shared their connection to Goebel Park and the Covington community.

- Chris Brown – Community Liaison
- Kaitlin Bryan – Historic Preservation Officer / Covington Aesthetics Committee
- Patrick Moore – City Urban Forester
- William Dickson – MainStrasse resident and neighborhood association leadership
- Michael Lange – Covington resident
- Brian Goubeaux – Parks advocate / bicycle program engineer (City of Cincinnati)

Several members noted frequent use of the park for recreation, dog walking, festivals, and neighborhood events, as well as the park's strong historic character and its importance as a venue for community festivals and gatherings.

Why Now?

The City and project team highlighted several factors that make this an important time to evaluate the future of Goebel Park:

- The Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project will impact the park footprint and surrounding area.
- The recent closure of the pool facility creates an opportunity to rethink how portions of the park are used.
- The park contains aging infrastructure and amenities that may require reinvestment.
- The City seeks a clear and implementable roadmap for future park improvements.

The City emphasized that the master planning effort is intended to be community-driven, even though infrastructure changes associated with the bridge project are affecting the park.

First Word That Comes to Mind When Thinking of Goebel Park?

“Historic”
“Hidden gem”
“Prominent/Gateway”
“Underutilized”
“Community gathering place”
“Lunch spot”
“Tired”

Project Scope and Goals

The master plan will develop a long-term vision and implementation strategy for Goebel Park. Key components include:

- Evaluating existing conditions and park amenities
- Identifying recreation, connectivity, and programming opportunities
- Gathering community input through engagement activities
- Developing conceptual design alternatives
- Creating an implementation plan and cost estimates for future improvements

Planning Process, Schedule. And Major Milestones

The planning process will occur over approximately **nine months** and includes three phases:

- Phase 1 – Initiate
 - Existing conditions assessment
 - Benchmarking and research
 - Initial community engagement
- Phase 2 – Plan
 - Develop potential improvement concepts
 - Community engagement and feedback
 - Identify a preferred direction for the park
- Phase 3 – Execute
 - Refine the preferred concept
 - Prepare the final master plan
 - Establish phasing and cost estimates

Role of the Stakeholder Committee

Stakeholder committee members will play an important role throughout the planning process.

As advisors, members will:

- Share local knowledge and experience
- Review and provide feedback on planning concepts
- Help interpret public input and priorities

As ambassadors, members will:

- Help spread awareness about engagement opportunities
- Encourage community participation
- Share project information with neighborhood networks and organizations

Stakeholders will participate in several meetings during the project, including a visioning session, concept review meeting, and final plan review.

Community Engagement Strategy

The project will include multiple engagement opportunities to gather input from residents and park users, including:

- An online community survey
- A project engagement website
- A virtual open house
- An in-person public open house
- Stakeholder committee meetings

Stakeholder committee members emphasized the importance of reaching a wide range of residents, including those who may not regularly participate in online engagement. Additional outreach tools such as flyers, yard signs, and social media will be used to promote participation.

Goebel Park Today

Goebel Park is approximately 14 acres and includes several existing amenities:

- Carroll Chimes Clock Tower
- Picnic shelters
- Playground
- Basketball courts
- Dog park
- Walking trails
- Pollinator garden

Participants noted that the park plays an important role as a community gathering space, particularly during festivals and neighborhood events.

General patterns of park use include:

- North side: More passive recreation and open space
- South side: More active recreation including sports courts and the dog park

Relevance of Previous Planning Efforts

The planning team will review previous planning initiatives, including the Covington Parks Master Plan, which identified priorities such as:

- Reinvesting in aging park infrastructure
- Modernizing amenities and playground facilities
- Expanding active recreation opportunities
- Enhancing event spaces
- Improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity

What We've Heard So Far

Opportunities

- Improved bike and pedestrian circulation and connectivity
- Integration of public art
- Potential for a new aquatic feature following closure of the pool
- Additional park land associated with the Brent Spence Bridge project

Challenges

- Coordination with ongoing infrastructure construction
- Aging park infrastructure
- Balancing historic character with modern park amenities

Early Visioning & Priorities

The group briefly discussed early thoughts about the park's future.

Several strengths of the park were mentioned in terms of what's working well:

- Historic character and the Carroll Chimes Clock Tower
- Role as a venue for community festivals and events
- Central location near MainStrasse
- Existing recreation amenities and open space

Opportunities to expand or enhance were discussed regarding what's missing:

- Recreation amenities and programming
- Connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists
- New features that attract visitors and activate the park

Other discussion items about what could be limiting the park's potential:

- Stakeholders raised concerns about flooding and sewer overflow issues affecting the lower portions of the park.
 - The City explained that the low-lying areas of the park currently serve an important stormwater management function, helping reduce flooding risk elsewhere in the city during heavy rain events.
 - Upcoming infrastructure improvements associated with the Brent Spence Bridge project will include stormwater system upgrades that will improve drainage and reduce sewer overflow events.
 - Members suggested exploring ways to integrate stormwater infrastructure into park design as a visible or educational landscape feature.

Next Steps

- Site Visit on Monday, 3/2, from 1-3pm – **CANCELLED – will be rescheduled**
 - The Mayor is expected to attend and share his perspective on the park. As a longtime resident of the neighborhood, he will provide insight into how the park has changed over time and opportunities for the future.
- Current and upcoming engagement opportunities: <https://engage.kzf.com/cov-goebel>

Stakeholders were encouraged to help share project information and promote participation through their community networks.