

Twin Cities Sustainable Harbor Initiative

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Office of the Great Lakes

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)



Twin Cities Harbor
Conservancy



How did we get here?

- 2015 Sustainable Small Harbors Project
- 2016 Twin Cities Harbor Study commissioned by Benton Harbor
- Twin Cities Harbor Conservancy
 - Diverse group of individuals energized by the 2016 study who represent local government, business, and industry from Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, St. Joseph Charter Township, and Berrien County
 - Membership:
 - Benton Harbor – Mayor, City Manager, Community Development Director
 - St. Joseph – Mayor, City Commissioner
 - St. Joseph Charter Township – Township Board Chair
 - Berrien County – Community Development Director
 - Others – Lakeland Heath, Cornerstone, Prairie Real Estate, Michigan Department of Transportation, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, Strategic Leadership Council, Whirlpool, Harbor Shores

Goal

The goal of the Sustainable Harbors Initiative is to facilitate the development of long-term, sustainable strategies that enable Michigan's Great Lakes coastal communities to maximize the benefits of their harbors and waterfront.

Process

Phase I

Pre-Charrette

Goal:

Gather existing documents, make presentations to local commissions, and plan charrette process.

Outcomes:

- Co-Created Charrette Process
- Communication and Outreach Strategy

Phase II

Charrette Process

Goal:

Host community meetings, focus groups, and technical meetings to aid in the community's co-creation of a vision for the future of the harbor.

Outcomes:

- Work In-Progress Preferred Alternative

Phase III

Post-Charrette

Goal:

Finalize and present co-created vision to communities and begin discussions of developing a co-governance model.

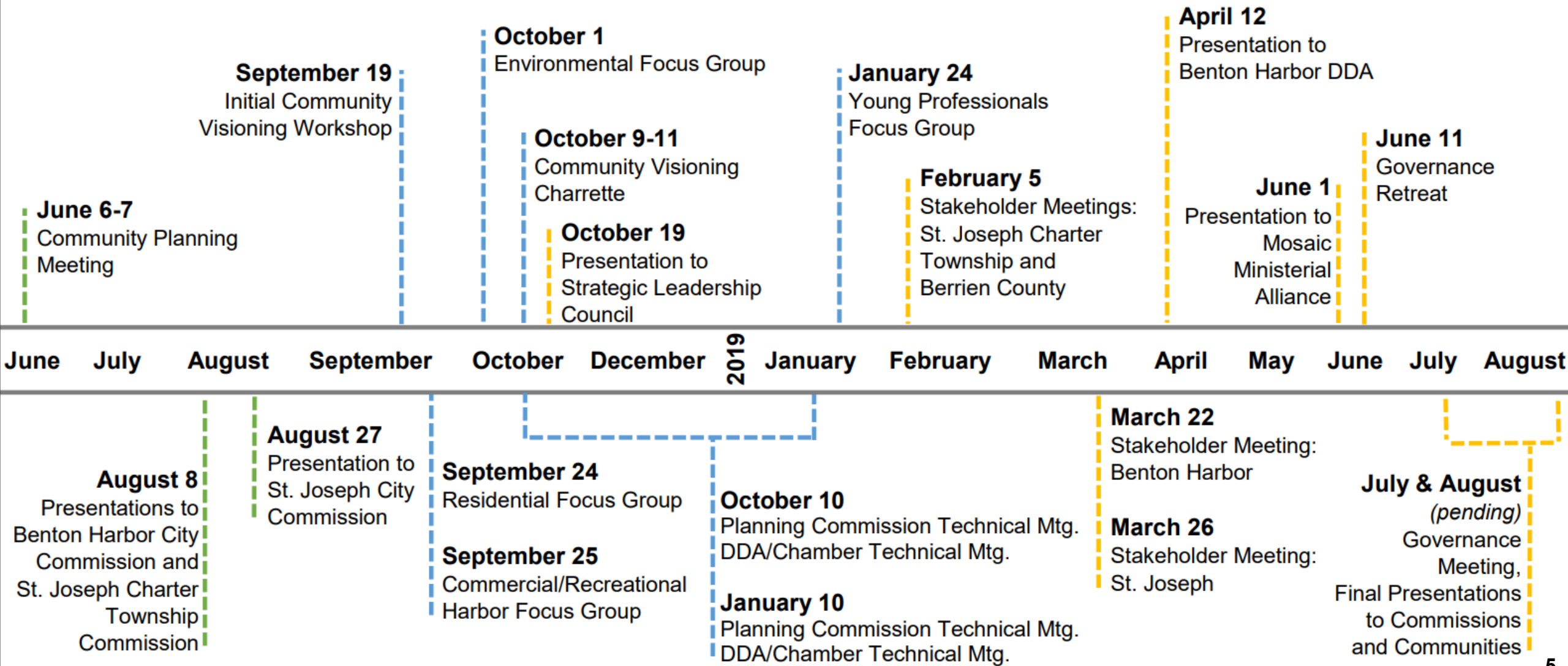
Outcomes:

- Final report and presentation
- Preferred Alternative

Twin Cities Sustainable Harbor Initiative

Progress in Process To-Date

Project Goal:
To facilitate the development of long-term, sustainable strategies that enable the communities to maximize the benefits of their harbor and waterfront.



Community Engagement Strategy

- Presentations at public commission meetings
- Promotion of public meetings
 - local newspapers (Harold Palladium, Benton Spirit)
 - TV/Radio coverage
 - public spaces (e.g. public library, Kinexus)
 - Facebook/Website
- Free transportation to and from all public meetings in Benton Harbor
- Focus Groups & Technical Meetings

Focus Groups & Technical Meetings

Focus Groups

- Residential
- Commercial & Recreational Harbor Interests
- Environmental
- Young Professionals
- Faith-Based (Pending)

Technical Meetings

- Planning Commissions
- Downtown Development Authorities & Chamber of Commerce
- Parks & Rec Commissions
- Elected Officials

Initial Community Visioning Meeting

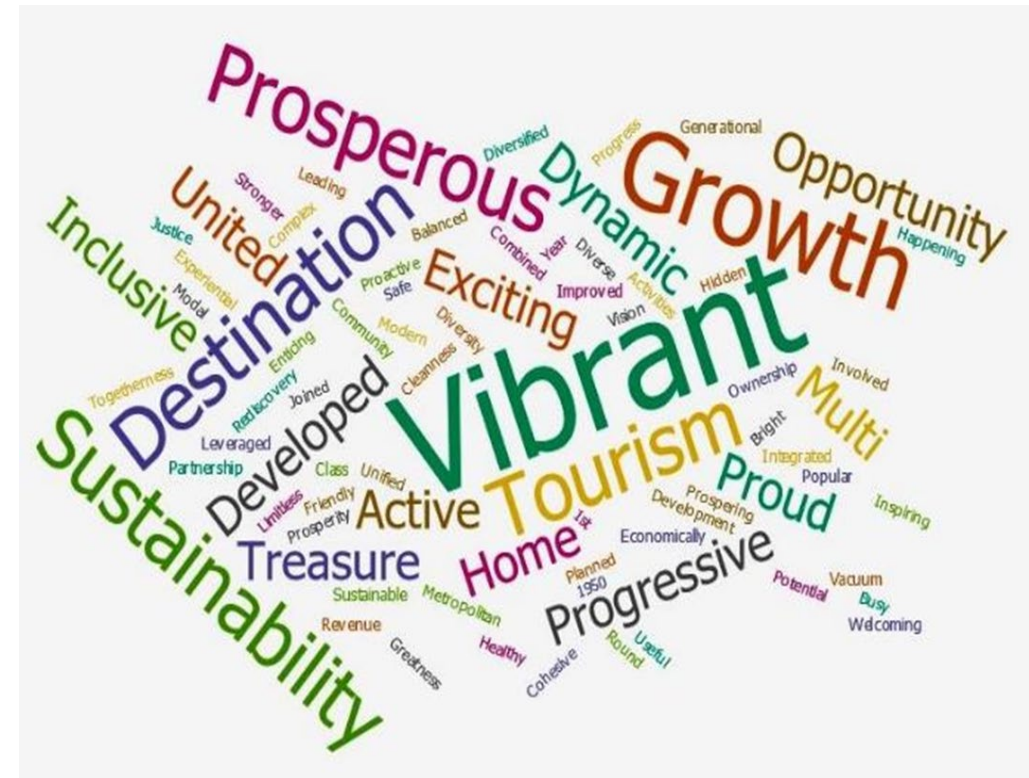
September 11, 2018

One word to describe your community...

AS IT IS TODAY



IN THE FUTURE



Initial Community Visioning Meeting

September 11, 2018

Shared Values for Future:

- Development
 - *Housing, Cultural Center, Grocery*
- Transportation
 - *Public Transit, Water Taxi*
- Connectivity
 - *Walkable, Accessible*
- Environment
 - *Green Space, Water Access*
- Collaborative Governance
 - *Transparency, Uniform Zoning*



Community Visioning Charrette: Public Workshop

October 9, 2018

Exercise 1: “Build Your Own”

Twin Cities Harbor Visioning Charrette			
Facilitator Name:	Table #:	Exercise 1:	“Build Your Own”
HOUSING	COMMERCIAL	CULTURE	RECREATION
H Single Family Housing	F Restaurants	A Art / Murals	P Parks / Greenspace
EL Entry Level Housing	R Retail	C Cultural Center	FS Fishing
S Senior Housing	MU Mixed Use	SA Streetscape Amenities (Benches, Lighting, Etc.)	BS Bike Share
A Apartments	G Grocery Store	EV Entertainment Venue	M Marina
T Townhomes	IS Incubator Space (Job Training, Etc.)		TB Transient Boat Slips
CO Condos	CS Commercial Shipping		WH Wildlife Habitat Eco-Restoration
	WT Water Taxi		



Community Visioning Charrette: Public Workshop

October 9, 2018

Exercise 2: “Connect the Dots”

Twin Cities Harbor Visioning Charrette

NUNEZ
DESIGN

Facilitator Name: _____ Table #: _____

Exercise 2: “Connect the Dots”

Facilitators - Use 4 different colored markers to label the following transportation designations below under circulation.

Now that we have mapped out our land plan uses on our map, we will now connect them. Each line will designate a different mode of transportation. Have the participants use the designated color for each specific line, starting with walks & trails and moving on to each mode one at a time. Have them mark on the map where they would want the proposed route to connect the colored dots from exercise 1. Use the connectivity planning color code scheme from your sheet.

Connect the Dots – Connecting assets. Consider pedestrians of all ages and abilities (universal design), cyclists, public transportation, vehicles, and boating using the 4 colored markers designated by its corresponding use on the exercise sheets.

CIRCULATION: Please draw below a color designation for each line using a different color for each line with the 4 markers on your table.

_____ = Walks & Trails

_____ = Bike Lanes

_____ = Water

_____ = Public Transit

Goal: To map out circulation patterns for the different types of modes of transportation.

Time: 30 minutes

Closing: Thank everyone for their valuable input. Invite them and their friends back on October 10th
5 minutes

Table Facilitators

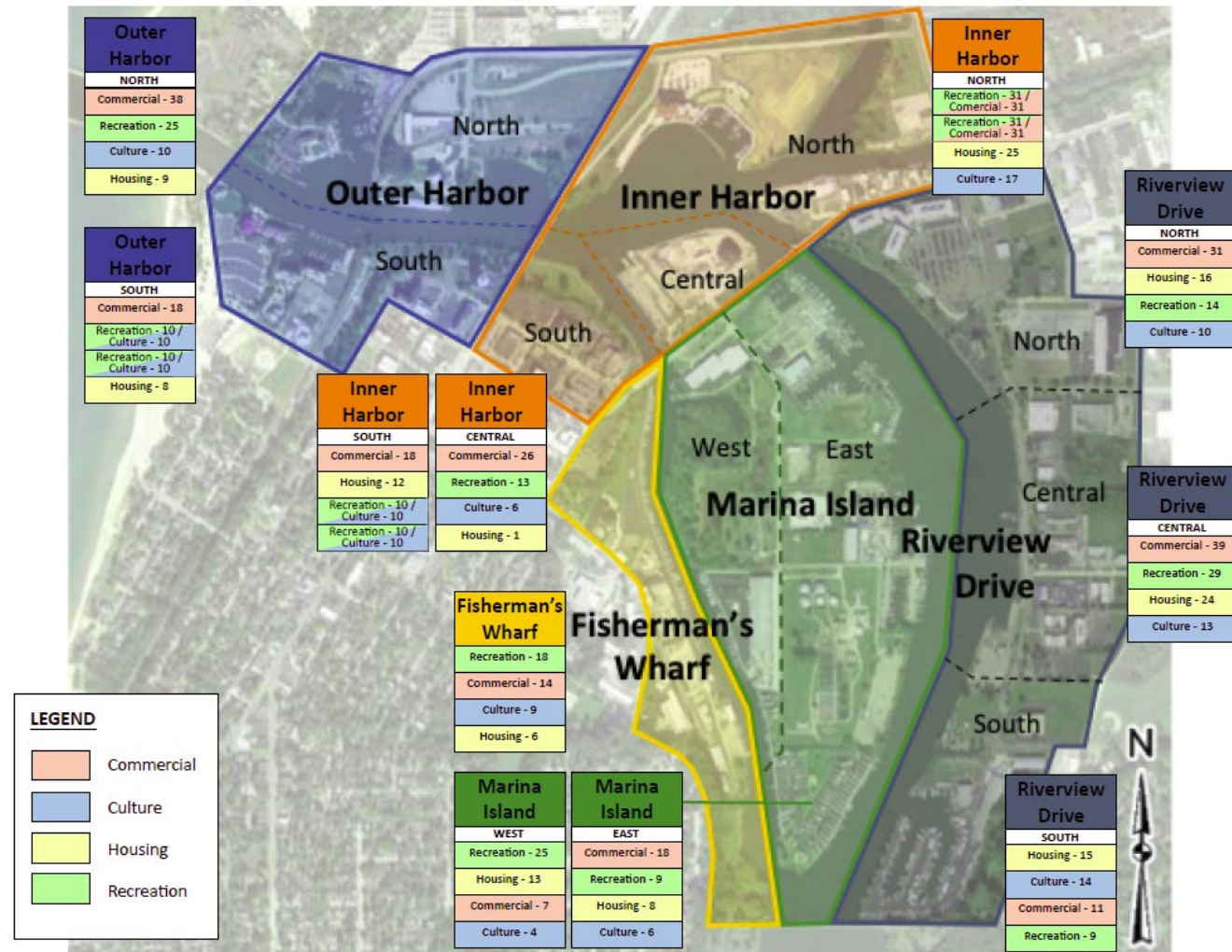
Gather all materials from your table to convene in the main meeting room.



Community Visioning Charrette: Alternative Designs & Community Open House

October 10, 2018

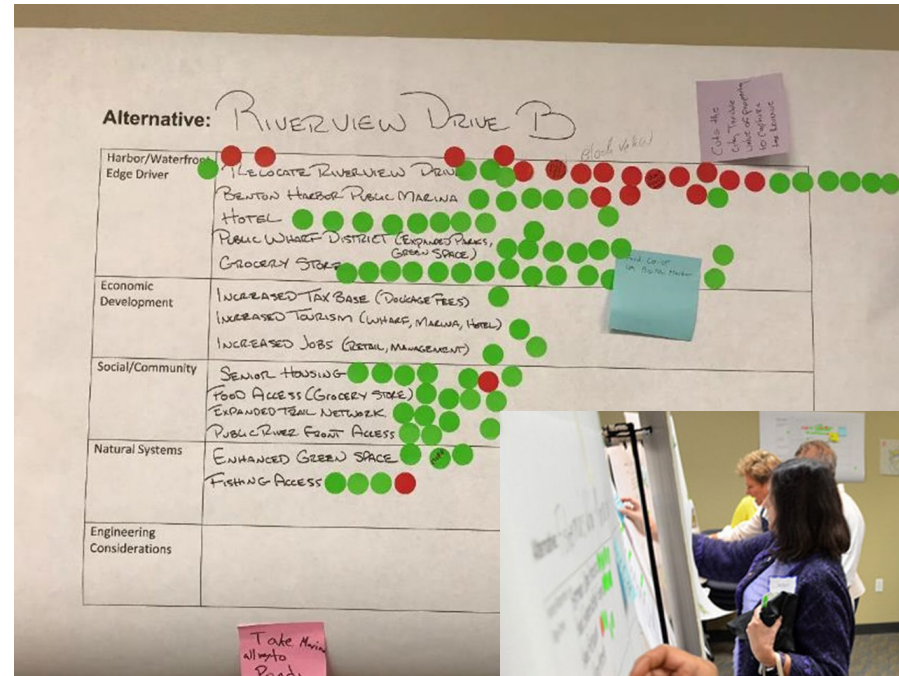
- Three alternative designs were developed for each major section of the study area:
 - Outer Harbor
 - Inner Harbor
 - Riverview Drive
 - Fisherman's Wharf-Marina Island



Community Visioning Charrette: Alternative Designs & Community Open House

October 10, 2018

- Three alternative designs were developed for each major section of the study area:
 - Outer Harbor
 - Inner Harbor
 - Riverview Drive
 - Fisherman's Wharf-Marina Island
- Community members participated by dot voting on each of the alternative designs

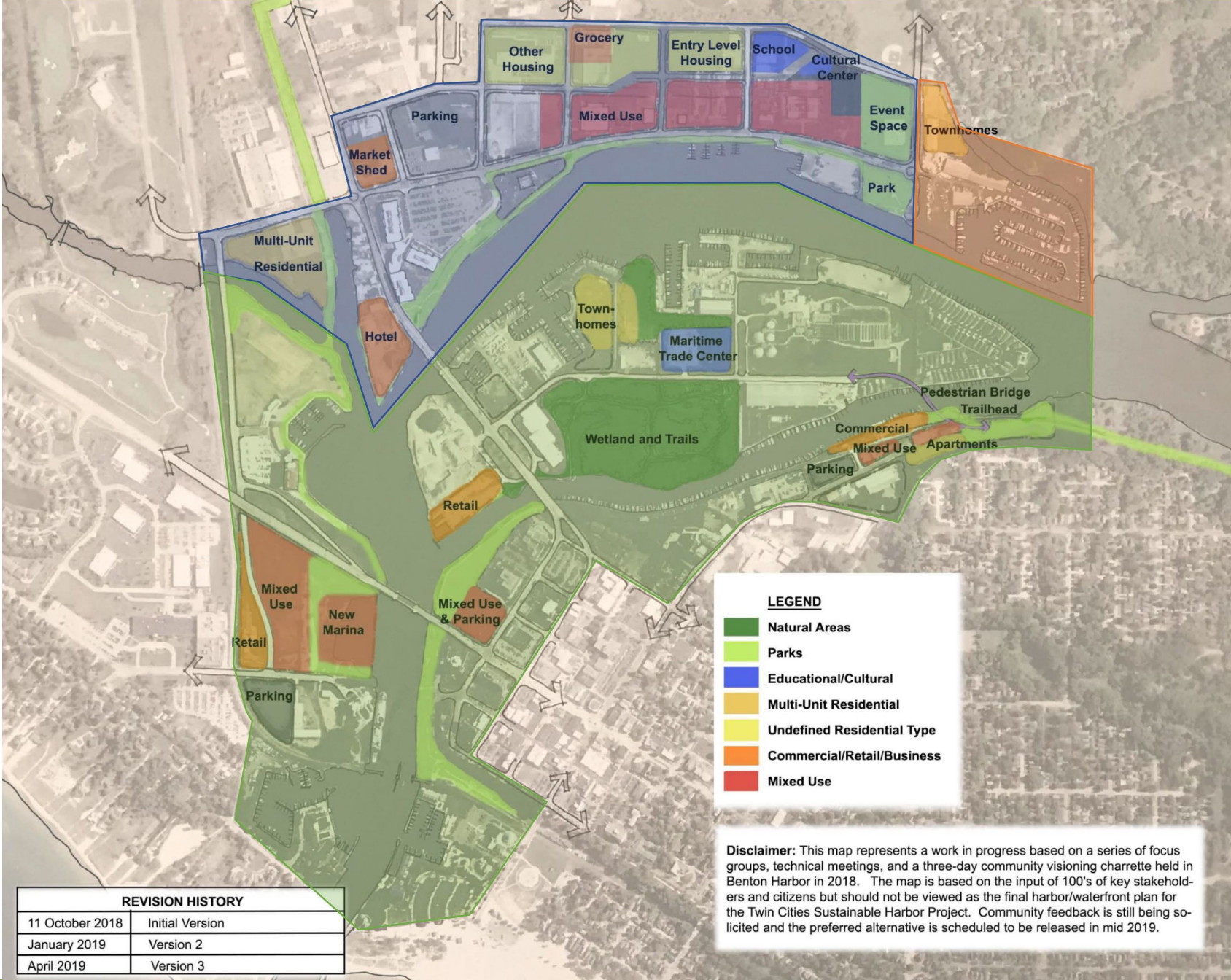


Work In-Progress Preferred Alternative

Benton Harbor

St. Joseph

St. Joseph Charter Township



Riverview Drive



Highlights:

- Grocery Store
- Cultural Center
- Community Event Space
- Housing
- Water Access
- Mixed Use – ↑ Jobs

Continued Engagement

- Master Plan updates in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph (*currently underway*)
- Governance Retreat with city, township, and county leadership (*June 11*)
- Benton Harbor Commissioner Townhall (*pending: June 20*)
- Faith-based Focus Group (*pending: July*)
- Presentation to communities and final edits (*pending: August*)
- Presentations to city commissions and township board (*pending: August*)

Call to Action

- We want to ensure the final shared vision is truly **collaborative** and **representative**
- Please help us spread the word and get folks to meetings!
 - Benton Harbor Commissioner Town Hall (*pending: June 20*)
 - Faith-based Focus Group (*pending: July*)
 - Presentation to communities and final opportunity to provide feedback (*pending: August*)

An aerial photograph of a coastal town. A large body of water, likely a lake, is visible in the background. A river or canal winds through the town, with a marina and several baseball fields along its banks. The foreground is dominated by dense green trees and residential housing. The sky is blue with scattered clouds.

Questions?