

City of Covington Parks Advisory Group Mission:

The mission of this group is to think holistically about the Covington parks system and use data, community feedback, and good judgement to make recommendations for improvements.

Role of the Group:

Currently the group has four main focus areas:

1. **Park Planning:** The City will be contracting with an outside organization to complete a master plan for the parks system and this group is going to function as a steering committee for that process.
2. **Baseline Standards:** The group is responsible for identifying a baseline set of standards for all parks in Covington. These standards are the minimum amenities that should be a part of all parks, regardless of their place on the priority list. These amenities include things like garbage cans, drinking fountain, seating, signage, and more.
3. **Park Reconstruction:** Using the Park Potential Index, this group systematically scores all of the neighborhood and local level parks from the Park Inventory to come up with a ranking order of parks based on the potential of their redevelopment to have a high impact on relevant community improvement factors. Once the prioritization process is complete, the group identifies the park with the highest development potential and guides a process for gathering resident input on desired improvements, for one park at a time, through all three phases of the timeline for redevelopment:

Phase 1: community input

Phase 2: design and community feedback

Phase 3: construction

The group will create a process for gathering feedback through each phase of redevelopment, to include (but not limited to) public meetings/gatherings, online surveys, and advertisements. When the first priority park moves onto Phase 3, the process will start again at Phase 1 for the park with the second highest priority ranking. This process will continue for each park on the list, with a goal of getting one park to construction each year. The group is also responsible for continuing to reevaluate this process and identify areas of improvement.

4. **Formalizing Community-Oriented Park Processes:** The group is working towards formalizing some processes that the City uses for park improvements and adoptions. This includes some things mentioned above like Baseline Standards and the Park Potential Index, as well as some additional processes like new park creation and codifying this group in the City's formal structure.

Responsibilities of Group Members:

Group members will need to attend semi-monthly meetings as needed and be prepared to engage in a thoughtful discussion about the process described above and relevant improvement ideas for the identified parks. Members of this group represent the diverse needs and interests of Covington residents and should be prepared to speak about those needs and interests, while still respecting the objective process. The group may also need to spend some time outside of the meetings reading through related materials to prepare for a meeting or visiting parks to be familiar with the inventory. All final decisions regarding park improvements will be made by the City of Covington, but the information gathered and submitted by this group will be the largest factor in their decision making.

Desired Qualifications for Group Members:

Group members must be able to meet the responsibilities outlined above, as well as be prepared to give input as someone with a significant amount of experience in one or more of the following relevant areas: agriculture; trees; horticulture; trails; youth and family interests like pools, playgrounds, sports, or recreation; adult interests like passive recreation, active recreation, sports; CIPS; physical design, aesthetics, and art incorporation; CPTED expertise; community health; and parks maintenance. It will also be important to make the sure that the group is representative of the full geography of Covington, making sure that members are from varying neighborhood across the city. Representatives from these neighborhoods should be able to speak on behalf of their neighborhoods, while also use their experience to help identify needs and assets of other neighborhoods.

Terms, Membership, & Attendance:

Membership of the Advisory Group will be made up of no more than 11 voting members. Anyone interested in being a part of the Group should submit an application to the City of Covington Parks & Recreation Department. Members will be selected based on interest, ability to commit, and knowledge of topics relevant to parks, recreation, and community involvement. Voting members of the Advisory Group are expected to serve a term of no less than three years. After three years the members participation will be evaluated and it will be determined if they qualify to serve another term, or end their tenure to make room for new members and new viewpoints. Attendance is required at all meetings. If a member misses more than one meeting in a row or more than two meetings in a year they may be asked to not participate in the group.

Conflict of Interest:

If any member or potential member identifies a conflict of interest in participating on this Advisory Group, they should point it out to the Parks & Recreation Manager immediately. They will decide if the conflict should be brought before the Group as a whole and discussed as possible grounds for ending a member's term. Conflicts of interest are defined as an Advisory Group member's (or a member of the Advisory Group member's immediate family) involvement or affiliation with any entity that has received, may receive, or is in contention to receive compensation from the City of Covington especially related to any park, trail, greenspace, or recreation related improvement or activity, regardless of whether the compensation is connected to the recommendations of this Advisory Group.

If you're interested in participating in the Covington Parks Advisory Group, please complete the online [application](#).